Thursday, May 28, 2026 No 147 ₹7

DH

DECCAN HERALD

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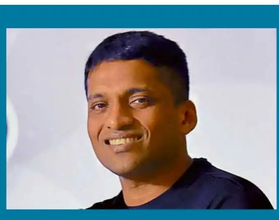

Singapore court orders six-month jail term for Byju Raveendran

Page 12

Hike OBC quota to 42%: Socio-edu survey report

CM receives report ahead of imminent leadership change

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The 2025 Social and Educational Survey, the findings of which were submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday, has recommended hiking OBC reservation from 32% to 42%.

According to sources, the report has recommended increasing the number of sub-categories in the OBC basket from five to eight. The onus of deciding on this report will be on the incoming chief minister.

Amid speedy political developments in the state, Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes (KSCBC) Chairman Madhusudan R Naik and other members submitted the report to Siddaramaiah on Wednesday evening.

Earlier in the day, the KSCBC held an emergency meeting to finalise the modalities of the report.

While Siddaramaiah — a Kuruba — is a firm proponent of the caste census, Congress leaders from the Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities, including Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar (a Vokkaliga), have not been very keen on it.

Speculation is rife that Siddaramaiah, who may resign on Thursday, was keen on accepting the report during his tenure itself.

Currently, the five OBC sub-categories are 1, 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B. The report has recommended creating eight sub-categories — 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B and 3C.

At present, the reservation break-up in the state is as follows: 1– 4%, 2A - 15%, 2B - 4%, 3A - 4% and 3B – 5%. While sub-category 1 includes several nomadic communities, sub-category 2A includes Kuruba, Ediga and so on.

Sub-category 2B comprises most of the Muslim communities (some are in sub-category 1). The Vokkaliga, Balija and other communities are in sub-category 3A, while Lingayats, Christians and Jains are in sub-category 3B.

DH has learnt that the KSCBC has recommended a revised formula: sub-category 1A - 4%, 1B - 4%, 2A - 10%, 2B - 6%, 2C - 6%, 3A - 4%, 3B - 5% and 3C - 3%.

The sources noted that the report has recommended retaining Kurubas in the sub-category 2A, most of the Muslim communities in 2B, Vokkaligas in 3A, Lingayats in 3B and creating a new sub-category 3C for Christians, Jains and so on.

Muslims (75-80 lakh/14%) are numerically largest amongst the OBCs, followed by Lingayats (60-65 lakh/11%), Vokkaligas (55-60 lakh/10%) and Kurubas (40-45 lakh/8%), the sources said.

The survey enumerated 5.85 crore out of the estimated 6.86 crore population (2025 projection) of the state. The physical leg of the survey was conducted from September 22 to October 31, 2025. The online self-enumeration option was extended up to November 30, 2025.

Significantly, the latest survey's figures are similar to the figures from the earlier Kantharaj Commission survey (2015), which found that Scheduled Castes were the most populous community, followed by Muslims (76.99 lakh), Lingayats (66.35 lakh), Vokkaligas (61.58 lakh) and Kurubas (42.81 lakh).

▸ Survey, Page 6

NUMBERS IN FOCUS

At present	Recommended
32% reservation for OBCs	**42%** reservation for OBCs
5 OBC sub-categories **(1-4%, 2A-15%, 2B-4%, 3A-4% and 3B-5%)**	8 OBC sub-categories **(1A-4%, 1B-4%, 2A-10%, 2B-6%, 2C-6%, 3A-4%, 3B-5% and 3C-3%)**

OBC population as per survey...

- Muslims: **75-80 lakh** (14%)
- Lingayats: **60-65 lakh** (11%)
- Vokkaligas: **55-60 lakh** (10%)
- Kurubas: **40-45 lakh** (8%)

* % of total population of state

The 251-page report has 13 chapters. The first 12 chapters are on the historical background of different surveys, methods and approach of the 2025 survey, yardstick to determine backwardness, analysis of socio-educational, economic and political backwardness. The 13th and final chapter is on the commission's recommendations.

Ugandan woman tests negative for Ebola in B'luru

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 28-year-old woman from Uganda, who was isolated at the Epidemic Diseases Hospital in Bengaluru after presenting with Ebola symptoms at the Kempegowda International Airport, has tested negative.

The woman arrived in Ahmedabad from Kampala, the capital of Uganda, on May 23 and later travelled to Bengaluru.

Her samples were sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune on Tuesday. The Ministry of Health announced on Wednesday that the test result had come back negative.

Rithwik Ranjanam Pandey, Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, confirmed the same to *DH*.

Officials said her condition remained stable and a repeat test would be conducted.

On May 17, the WHO had declared Ebola a Public Health Emergency of International Concern following outbreaks in parts of Africa.

CPM activists attack a vehicle carrying ED officials, in Thiruvananthapuram, on Wednesday. PTI

Tension as ED searches Pinarayi's residence

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday conducted simultaneous searches at the residences of former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his family members as part of a probe into the alleged shady financial transactions involving his daughter's IT firm and a private mining entity.

Tension prevailed in the state capital after members of the CPM and its youth and student outfits attacked ED vehicles with sticks and bricks while officials were coming out of Vijayan's residence after the searches. A driver suffered minor injuries as windscreens of cars were broken, while ED officials were learnt to be unhurt.

Party leaders stood in front of a local CPM office here to prevent the police from nabbing those who were suspected to have taken shelter in the office after attacking the ED vehicles.

▸ Pinarayi, Page 6

SC upholds 28% GST on online gaming and betting

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the constitutional validity of the Goods and Services Tax on online gaming activities, including fantasy sports, while upholding the validity of laws enacted by the Tamil Nadu and Karnataka governments banning online games played for stakes, including games of skill such as rummy and poker.

The top court rejected challenges against the taxation of actionable claims arising from betting and gambling transactions.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan ruled that organised online gaming involving pooled stakes and contingent outcomes qualifies as betting and gambling for the purpose of GST, even if the games involve skills.

▸ GST, Page 6

NEW PHASE

Govt turns to pvt firms for 5th gen fighter

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Opening a new chapter in fighter jet manufacturing in India, the Defence Ministry has issued a tender to three private companies for designing and developing the fifth generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft keeping the state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd out of the competition.

The Request For Proposal, issued by the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bengaluru, asks the winning bidder to produce five prototypes and "one structural test specimen along with associated jigs and fixtures" by 2034, sources said.

The Defence Ministry earlier shortlisted three private company-led consortia – headed by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd, Larsen and Toubro and Bharat Forge - for the Rs 15,000-crore AMCA programme.

The Execution Model for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft programme. PTI

L&T, in turn, has partnered with Bharat Electronics Ltd and Dynamatic Technologies whereas Bharat Forge has teamed up with Bharat Earth Movers Ltd and Data Patterns.

Once ready, the home-grown Tejas LCA and AMCA are expected to be the mainstays for the Indian Air Force.

Earlier this month, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone for AMCA's core integration and flight testing facility at Puttaparthi.

The winning bidder is required to support the flight testing and type certification activities of AMCA as part of this RFP. Moreover, the winner will have to incorporate a new company within a period of three months from declaration of results, with whom the contract will be signed.

Leaving out HAL in favour of a private consortium is a milestone in aircraft production in India as the Bengaluru-based defence public sector undertaking virtually enjoyed a monopoly till the Tata-Airbus consortium opened its C295 transport aircraft manufacturing plant at Vadodara in 2024.

▸ Fighter jet, Page 6

Women's commission calls for codification of Muslim personal laws

Seeks mandatory marriage registration for Muslim women

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Codify Muslim laws, make marriage registration mandatory and bring in institutional frameworks for adoptions — these are some of the recommendations of the National Commission for Women (NCW) in a report on the rights of Muslim women.

The report, 'Rights of Muslim Women in India', was submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

The NCW said that the report was drafted after an extensive national-level consultation "aimed at strengthening the legal, social, and constitutional rights" of Muslim women in the country.

In the report, the NCW has asked for the enactment of a "comprehensive legislation" to codify Muslim personal law relating to marriage, divorce, maintenance, custody and inheritance. The report has also called for the mandatory registration of marriages to ensure free and informed consent, prohibition of child marriage and regulation of divorce practices, ensuring fairness, due process and equal access to remedies for women.

To ensure maintenance and financial security, the NCW has recommended the strengthening of provisions for maintenance during and after marriage to safeguard women's rights over mehr and matrimonial assets. It has also called for the adoption of child-centric custody frameworks and strengthening women's rights in property and inheritance through simplified enforcement mechanisms.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- NCW seeks comprehensive legislation on marriage, divorce, custody, inheritance
- Submits report to Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Minority Affairs
- Calls for strengthening maintenance provisions
- Adoption and custody reforms to protect children's interests

"Establishment of gender-sensitive dispute resolution mechanisms with adequate representation of women and accountability to civil courts... Expansion of legal aid systems, helplines, and targeted awareness campaigns to enhance legal literacy among Muslim women... Immediate intervention to address harmful practices such as the 'Paaro' system, alongside rehabilitation measures, identity recognition, and livelihood support for affected women," the report further recommended.

The women's body had held a round-table consultation on August 1, 2025, in New Delhi, where the Minister of Minority Affairs was present, along with senior government representatives, legal organisations, religious scholars, social activists and members of civil society.

"The commission observed that while constitutional safeguards and recent legal reforms have contributed significantly towards advancing women's rights, there remains substantial scope to strengthen legal awareness, improve access to justice and bring greater clarity and consistency through progressive codification of personal laws. Particular emphasis was placed on issues relating to marriage, divorce, maintenance, custody and inheritance," the NCW said in a release.

CJs of 4 HCs, woman advocate recommended as SC judges

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the appointment of the chief justices (CJs) of four high courts (HCs) and a woman senior advocate for elevation as judges of the top court.

In its meeting held on May 22 and 27, the Collegium — led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant — approved the appointment of Punjab and Haryana HC CJ Sheel Nagu, Bombay HC CJ Shree Chandrashekhar, Madhya Pradesh HC CJ Sanjeev Sachdeva, J&K & Ladakh HC CJ Arun Palli, and senior advocate V Mohana as Supreme Court judges.

Justice Nagu hailed from the MP HC, Justice Chandrashekhar from the Jharkhand HC, Justice Sachdeva from the Delhi HC, and Justice Palli from the Punjab and Haryana HC.

Mohana, who hails from Tamil Nadu, would be only the second woman lawyer practising in the Supreme Court to get a direct elevation to the apex court if the Union government approves the recommendations.

Justice Indu Malhotra was the first woman senior advocate directly appointed as a SC judge. It was only in 2021 that three women judges, Justices Hima Kohli, Bela M Trivedi, and B V Nagarathna, were elevated to the apex court.

With the recommendations, the number of judges would rise to 37 against the increased strength of 38 judges, including the CJI.

Assam passes UCC Bill amid objections from Oppn parties

Becomes the third state, after U'khand & Gujarat, to pass bill

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The contentious Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026, was passed in the Assam Assembly on Wednesday by a voice vote amid objections by the Congress and its allies in the Opposition during the nearly five-hour-long discussion.

The passage of the Bill makes Assam the third state — after Uttarakhand and Gujarat — to have a UCC.

The Assam UCC seeks to establish a single civil legal framework for all residents — barring tribals — regarding marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships.

It explicitly excludes Scheduled Tribes to preserve their constitutional protections, while replacing various religion-based personal laws to ensure absolute equality and gender justice.

It makes registration of all marriages, divorces, and live-in relationships mandatory, while prohibiting polygamy. It also seeks to protect women's right to inheritance.

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA
Assam chief minister

"The UCC has a long history. It was first demanded by the Congress in 1925. It was also suggested in 1937 by Jawaharlal Nehru. That same Congress is opposing it from the angle of the Quran and Sharia, not from the Hindu or Christian or tribal angle.

Taking part in the discussion, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma called it a "watershed moment" in Assam's history.

Tribals excluded

Defending the decision to keep tribals out of the UCC's purview, Sarma explained: "Tribals have been exempted from the UCC because they have customary norms that protect the rights and dignity of women and prohibit polygamy. The decision is our mark of respect for the tribal customary laws and norms."

Sarma said the UCC would protect the rights and dignity of Muslim women as well by stopping child marriage and polygamy, and making the registration of marriages and divorces compulsory.

He said the new law would soon be sent to the President for assent, following which, the rules would be made ready. "The process may take six to seven months for implementation," he said.

The UCC was a major promise of the BJP in its manifesto for the Assam Assembly elections, held on April 9.

Wajed Ali Choudhury, who was named the leader of the Congress Legislature Party on Tuesday, said the BJP-led government had decided to pass the bill without any consultations with community-based organisations as part of its divisive policy and to target only Muslims.

Raijor Dal chief Akhil Gogoi said the UCC was a "mere political stunt" of the BJP and the CM to "appease" his high command and the Sangh Parivar by targeting Muslims.

"There is nothing new here. We already have laws prohibiting polygamy and child marriage, and for the registration of Muslim marriages," Gogoi said.

Agonising choice: Kin leave climber's body in Himalayas

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

EVEREST DEATH

- **Arun Kumar Tiwari,** a 53-year-old mountaineer from Hyderabad, fell ill during the Everest descent
- Retrieving a body from the Hillary Step at 8,790 m is perilous and prohibitively expensive
- Situated within the 'Death Zone', the area offers barely enough oxygen, leaving rescuers on the brink of exhaustion and frostbite
- This is the second Indian fatality; fellow mountaineer Sandeep Are, 47, also died while descending

For the family of Arun Kumar Tiwari, a 53-year-old mountaineer from Hyderabad, the decision to leave his mortal remains on the slopes of the Himalayas was an agonising one.

Tiwari, a senior director at a leading IT firm in Hyderabad, died near the Hillary Step just below the summit of Mt Everest while descending the mountain last week.

He had fallen ill during the descent and was being assisted by four Sherpa climbers at the time, according to Nepal-based Pioneer Adventures, which organised the expedition.

"He is in Lord Shiva's abode," said a close relative of Tiwari's family. "The process of bringing the body down would leave it very badly damaged by the time it reaches us. Such operations on Everest are also not known to be successful," the relative added.

The family's resignation was informed not only by grief, but by grim practical realities. Retrieving a body from the Hillary Step, a near-vertical rock face at roughly 8,790 metres, is a perilous and prohibitively expensive undertaking. It requires a team of eight to twelve highly skilled Sherpas and large quantities of bottled oxygen.

Situated squarely within the 'Death Zone', the area offers barely enough oxygen to sustain life, leaving any would-be rescuers perpetually on the brink of exhaustion, frostbite, and altitude sickness, said sources in the mountaineers community in the city.

Tiwari was an accomplished mountaineer. He had previously summited the Mt Elbrus in Russia, Mt Denali in the US and Mt Aconcagua in Argentina, among others.

Tiwari's death was not an isolated tragedy. His fellow mountaineer Sandeep Are, 47, also died of health complications while descending Everest on the same day.

According to expedition organisers, Tiwari had already been physically weakened when he reached the summit on May 21. His condition deteriorated sharply near the Hillary Step, and despite reported warnings from his Sherpa guides to turn back, he proceeded.

In 2025, Tiwari had been forced to abandon a summit attempt after falling ill at 7,200 m. This time, he was determined to finish the climb, which ultimately cost him his life.

Study: Evidence of subsurface ice in Moon's south polar region

NEW DELHI, PTI: A new study has indicated strong evidence of subsurface ice under some of the coldest craters in the Moon's south polar region.

The analysis focused on "doubly shadowed craters," which are special craters located inside permanently shadowed regions (PSRs) of the Moon.

The findings have significant implications for future lunar exploration missions, including the identification of potential ice-bearing regions for future landing and in-situ resource utilisation activities, according to a statement released by the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) on Wednesday.

The study was carried out by the scientists of Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL).

For the analysis, they examined observations from Chandrayaan-2 orbiter's dual frequency synthetic aperture radar (DFSAR) - a type of mapping tool that deploys two different radio wave frequencies to take detailed pictures of the landscape.

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The Power of Good

Sooryavanshi fires as RR crush SRH

15-year-old scores 29-ball 97 to help Royals reach Qualifier 2

Page 15

DH greets its readers on the occasion of *Eid-ul-Adha*

World

US rejects reported Iran draft framework claims P.11

Nation

5-yr extension for SARTHAK-PDS scheme P.10

Business

India, US to finalise details of trade deal P.12

DKS set for coronation as Siddu gets ready to resign

POWER SHIFT: CM may quit today, to host ministers

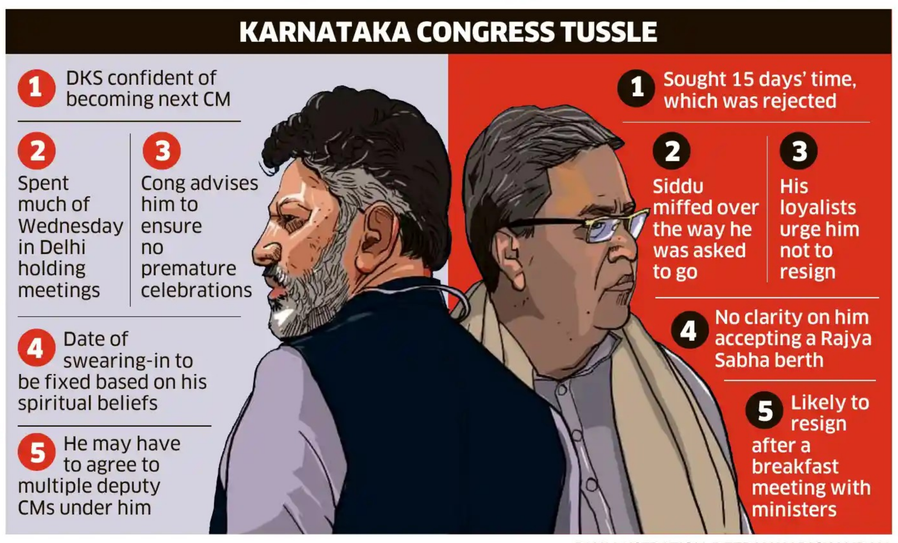
BENGALURU/NEW DELHI, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is expected to step down on Thursday, paving the way for his deputy DK Shivakumar to succeed him, though the sudden turn of events has left the incumbent's supporters with a bitter aftertaste.

On Thursday morning, Siddaramaiah is scheduled to host his Cabinet colleagues for breakfast. Later, he may head to Lok Bhavan and tender his resignation. There is no clarity on when the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting will be convened to elect the next chief minister.

"Siddaramaiah may resign after 3 pm," said Government Chief Whip Ashok Pattan, who is aspiring to become a minister in the new government.

However, Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, who arrived here Wednesday ostensibly to oversee the transition, maintained that "no decision has yet been taken" and no CLP meeting is scheduled. "As things evolve, we'll inform you. Please don't speculate," he said.


KARNATAKA CONGRESS TUSSLE
1 DKS confident of becoming next CM
2 Spent much of Wednesday in Delhi holding meetings
3 Cong advises him to ensure no premature celebrations
4 Date of swearing-in to be fixed based on his spiritual beliefs
5 He may have to agree to multiple deputy CMs under him
1 Sought 15 days' time, which was rejected
2 Siddu miffed over the way he was asked to go
3 His loyalists urge him not to resign
4 No clarity on him accepting a Rajya Sabha berth
5 Likely to resign after a breakfast meeting with ministers

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

On Tuesday, top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi asked the CM to resign, with the party high command deciding to enforce a power-sharing agreement between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar.

While the names of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Home Minister G Parameshwara — both Dalits — were discussed, the party chose Shivakumar, sources said. Shivakumar was backed by Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra, with the support of Sonia Gandhi and Kharge.

During the day, ministers and lawmakers close to Siddaramaiah urged him not to resign in a huff. However, he appeared subdued. "Some of us expressed our sense of concern. But [Siddaramaiah] was totally silent," Law Minister HK Patil said.

▸ Resign, Page 6
Ahinda a stepping stone, P5
DKS' elevation bodes ill for JD(S), Page 5

Multiple DyCMs likely

The new government, likely to be headed by DK Shivakumar, may have multiple deputy CMs. It is possible that deputy CMs from Muslim, Dalit, Lingayat or OBC communities will be appointed.
Details on Page 5

SC upholds SIR, says it fulfils goal of free, fair polls

Backs EC's power to carry out exercise

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a significant judgment, the Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the legality of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls conducted by the Election Commission, observing that the exercise advances the constitutional goal of free and fair elections.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi ruled that the EC has the power to conduct such a special revision under Article 324 of the Constitution, read with the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the rules framed thereunder.

"The SIR exercise neither stands in direct conflict with the RP Act and the 1960 Rules, nor does it detract from the constitutional imperative of free and fair elections. It is, instead, an exercise traceable to Section 21(3) of the RP Act," the bench said.

Disposing of a batch of petitions challenging the SIR exercise in Bihar, Chief Justice Surya Kant held that the SIR process has a direct nexus with the goal of ensuring free and fair elections, which fundamentally depend on the integrity and accuracy of electoral rolls.

▸ SIR, Page 4

Cong: Raises more questions

Congress on Wednesday said the Supreme Court judgment on the SIR of electoral rolls has raised more questions than it has answered while one of the petitioners, Yogendra Yadav, claimed that the outcome was a "forgone conclusion" while alleging that the ruling BJP will decide "who can vote and who cannot".
Details on Page 7

Rains continue to batter several parts of state, 3 killed

BENGALURU, DHNS: The pre-monsoon showers, coupled with lightning, thunder and high-velocity winds, continued to lash the parched districts of Kalyana Karnataka on Wednesday. Several parts of south Karnataka, including Hunsur, also experienced the unseasonal rains with heightened thunder activity.

Three people were killed in lightning strikes - one in Yadgir and two in Hunsur taluk of Mysuru district. Several heads of livestock also perished in lightning strikes in several parts of the state, including Yadgir and Hassan districts.

Other parts of the state also received rainfall.
Details on Page 6

SC seeks Centre's response on 3rd language rule

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought responses from the Centre, CBSE and the NCERT on a petition challenging the decision to make the study of a third language compulsory for Class 9 students.
Details on Page 7

AI, IndiGo cut domestic flights

NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI, PTI: Air India, IndiGo, and Air India Express are temporarily reducing their domestic flights by 10 to 22% in the coming months, as the airlines seek to deal with the impact of surging jet fuel prices and relatively lower travel demand, according to officials.

In the wake of the West Asia conflict, which started in late February, airlines have been facing multiple headwinds, including costlier fuel and airspace curbs, which pushed up their operational costs.

Faced with spiralling costs, Air India, IndiGo and Air India Express have also resorted to rationalisation of domestic routes for the coming months.

Officials said Air India is cutting 20-22% of its domestic flights for June and July, and Air India Express is reducing 10% of the domestic services for June.

IndiGo is cutting 12-15% of domestic flights for the September quarter, and this is in comparison to the planned services in the summer schedule for the given quarter, officials said.

▸ Flights, Page 4

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LIC/O1/2026-27/04/Eng

Jaipur techie's suicide: Family alleges wife's affair led to distress

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 29-year-old software professional died by suicide at his residence in HSR Layout. His family has filed a case of abetment against his wife, alleging that her rekindled relationship with a former boyfriend pushed him into emotional distress.

Niraj Gupta, a native of Jaipur, was found hanging in his flat on January 18.

Police initially registered a case of unnatural death after recovering a note in which he reportedly stated that no one should be held responsible for his decision. However, his brother later approached the police and filed a complaint alleging abetment of suicide.

According to police, Gupta had sent a message to a friend shortly before his death, explaining the circumstances that had driven him into depression and emotional distress. The friend tried to contact him after receiving the message, but was unable to reach him.

Gupta had married Ekta Chaudary a year ago after the two met through a dating app.

Ekta, a UPSC aspirant, had travelled to Delhi, claiming she was preparing for the civil services examination. During her stay, she allegedly rekindled her relationship with a former boyfriend from Patna.

Police said Gupta had learnt about the relationship, gathered digital evidence and expressed anguish over the affair in his message to his friend before taking the extreme step.

Investigators further said Gupta's family had initially opposed the marriage as Ekta was older than him, but he later convinced them, following which the couple got married in Nagaland.

Police said Ekta denied the allegations made by her husband's family during questioning. "As the complainant approached the court seeking registration of an FIR, we have registered a case of abetment of suicide and further investigation is on," an officer said.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104)

SEBI response exposes investment scam after man loses Rs 60 lakh

Fake trading app showed bogus profits to lure victim

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

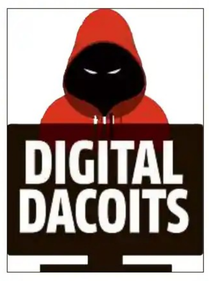
A response from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) helped a Bengaluru resident realise he had fallen victim to an online investment scam after losing more than Rs 60 lakh to fraudsters.

The 59-year-old victim, Sanath S (name changed), a senior manager at a private company and resident of Kengeri, told police that he believed he was investing through a genuine investment firm.

According to police, on December 1, 2025, Sanath received a link from an unknown number. After clicking on it, he was added to a WhatsApp group named 'Trail of Success VIP'.

Police said two suspects, identified as Rahul Bahri and Keshav, who claimed to represent Anantum Capital Ventures, administered the group and regularly shared investment tips. Other members of the group allegedly posted screenshots and messages claiming high returns from investments, encouraging Sanath to invest.

The suspects later emailed him a link to download an application called 'Anantum PEA', claiming it would allow him to trade online.



Police said the app was fictitious and manipulated to display fake profits in order to gain the victim's trust and keep him investing for several months.

Sanath initially invested Rs 25,000 and eventually transferred a total of Rs 60.76 lakh to the fraudsters by March 2, 2026. However, when he attempted to withdraw the money, the suspects demanded additional payments.

Meanwhile, Sanath had approached SEBI to verify the legitimacy of the company.

"He received a reply stating that the company was fake and that online trading is not conducted through mobile phones. He delayed filing the complaint as he was hopeful of recovering his money. Only after receiving the SEBI response did he realise it was a scam," a senior police officer said.

Sanath approached the West Cybercrime Police and filed a complaint on May 11. Further investigation is underway.

1,325 fraud cases till April

According to data reviewed by DH, Karnataka reported 1,325 investment fraud cases till April this year, including 243 cases in April alone.

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

"He (the victim) received a reply stating that the company was fake and that online trading is not conducted through mobile phones. He delayed filing the complaint, hoping to recover his money. Only after receiving SEBI's response did he realise it was a scam.

3 arrested for threatening man, damaging parked vehicles

BENGALURU, DHNS: VV Puram police have arrested three people for allegedly threatening a man and damaging parked two-wheelers, officials said on Wednesday.

The accused have been identified as Abhishek, 26, Puneeth alias Tony, 25, and Umesh, 27, all residents of VV Puram and Mavalli.

According to police, on May 20, near Magadi Venkatappa Road, the trio stopped a man, assaulted him and threatened him with death. They later went on to damage two-wheelers parked in front of the complainant's house.

The suspects were arrested on May 23.

During interrogation, they confessed to the crime. Police said investigations revealed that the accused committed the act to create fear and spread mischief in the area.

They were later produced before a court and remanded in judicial custody.

GBA to hold pulse polio drive from June 28-July 1

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has announced a pulse polio vaccination drive across the city from June 28 to July 1.

All children aged from newborn to five years are required to mandatorily receive two drops of the polio vaccine.

To ensure full coverage, the vaccination drive will be conducted through 4,452 centres, including 3,391 fixed booths, 597 transit teams, and 464 mobile teams across the city. The GBA has set a target of vaccinating 11.34 lakh children during the campaign.

The vaccine will be available at clinics, primary health centres, maternity hospitals, referral hospitals, private hospitals, and medical college hospitals. The centres will operate from 8 am to 5 pm.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao reviewed the preparations and instructed officials to make details of vaccination booths across the five city corporations readily available to the public.

GBA Special Commissioner (Health) Venkatachalapathi said the authority would engage students from nursing colleges, medical colleges, and paramedical institutions as volunteers to ensure that polio drops reach every eligible child.

In addition to private and government clinics, the GBA has also planned door-to-door visits and will deploy mobile units at crowded places, including bus stations, markets, and slum areas.

Prostitution racket: Seven women held

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Bengaluru police has arrested seven women for allegedly operating a prostitution racket in the city, officials said on Wednesday.

According to police, officers conducted raids at rented houses in Madduramma Layout and Srigandha Kaval under the jurisdiction of the Kamakshipalya police station, on Temple Road under the Vidyaranyapura police station limits, and in BEML Layout under the Basaveshwara Nagar police station limits.

The raids were carried out on different dates over the past week, leading to the arrest of seven women accused of forcing other women into prostitution.

Police also rescued five women who were allegedly coerced into sex work.

During interrogation, the accused confessed that, in an attempt to earn quick money, they contacted men seeking sexual services over the phone, invited them to rented houses and operated the racket from there.

Cases are registered at Kamakshipalya, Vidyaranyapura, Basaveshwara Nagar police stations.

Aveksha Hospital in north Bengaluru, where 21 patients were safely evacuated after a fire broke out on Wednesday.

21 patients evacuated after fire breaks out at private hospital

BENGALURU, DHNS: Twenty-one patients had a narrow escape after a fire broke out at a private hospital in north Bengaluru in the early hours of Wednesday, officials said.

Fourteen of the patients, who were admitted to the ICU, were shifted to two nearby private hospitals.

According to Fire and Emergency Services officials, the incident was reported around 3.15 am at Aveksha Hospital on MS Palya Road in Singapura.

The fire is suspected to have originated from an electrical cable in the basement duct, resulting in heavy smoke engulfing parts of the building.

Officials said hospital staff acted swiftly and evacuated the 14 ICU patients, who were on the second floor, before fire and emergency personnel arrived at the scene.

In total, 21 patients from the first floor were safely evacuated in time, averting a major tragedy.

A senior police officer said a fire tender was rushed to the spot after a hospital staff member, Yasmin Taj, alerted the fire control room. The hospital building consists of a basement and four floors.

Fire officials said the ICU suffered damage due to the blaze and smoke.

Despite dense smoke filling the premises, all the patients escaped without injuries, and some were later discharged, officials added.

Fire and emergency personnel later brought the blaze under control before it could spread further. The exact extent of property damage is yet to be assessed.

Based on a complaint filed by the hospital management, Vidyaranyapura police inspected the scene and launched further investigation, police said.

Hit-and-run: Motorcyclist killed near Chikkabanavara

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 32-year-old private company employee was killed after an unidentified vehicle rammed into his motorcycle and fled the scene near Chikkabanavara on Tuesday night.

Police identified the deceased as Dinesh, a resident of Yelahanka.

According to police, he was returning home when a speeding vehicle hit his motorcycle around 10.30 pm. He sustained severe injuries in the crash and collapsed on the road.

Passersby rushed him to a hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment.

The Chikkabanavara traffic police have registered a case and launched an investigation to trace the driver of the offending vehicle.

Police said CCTV footage from cameras installed near the toll plaza is being examined to identify the vehicle and track down the driver.

एफएसएसएआई fssai भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा एवं मानक प्राधिकरण Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE सत्यमेव जयते

Attention
Food Business Operators (FBOs)!
Have you filed your Annual Return yet?

The portal for filing Annual Return (Form D1) for the Financial Year 2025–26 is now OPEN on
FoSCoS Food Safety Compliance System

Applicable to:
- Manufacturers (including repackers and relabellers)
- Exporters (Manufacturer)
- Importers

Last Date for Filing: 31st May 2026

Non-compliance:
Delay in filing will attract a penalty of ₹100 per day and may also lead to suspension of license.

Navigation Path for Filing Annual Return:
Step 1: Visit https://foscos.fssai.gov.in
Step 2: Login to Food Businesses using your FoSCoS credentials
Step 3: Click on Fill Annual Return
Step 4: Select Year (2025–26) and proceed
Step 5: Fill and submit Form D1

For detailed guidance, refer to User Manual:

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For any grievance related to food safety, you can download the Food Safety Connect app by FSSAI.

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: support@deccanherald.co.in

CSIR - National Physical Laboratory
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
Dr. K.S. Krishnan Marg, New Delhi-110012

Advertisement No. Rectt./02/2026
(Abridged Version)

Applications are invited from Indian citizens fulfilling the requisite qualifications for filling up **20 (Twenty)** posts of **Technician (1)** in the Pay Level-02 in the area of **Electronics / Electrical / Computer Operator & Programming Assistant (COPA) / Multimedia, Animation and Special Effects / Digital Photographer, Photographer / Mechanic Motor Vehicle** at CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.

Last Date for Receipt of Applications is 30.06.2026 The detailed advertisement along with Application Form is available at Laboratory's website **www.nplindia.in**

Sr. Controller of Administration

CBC 36209/11/0001/2627

सत्यमेव जयते

F.No.10 - 3 / 2026 TS.III
Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education

Appointment of Director in the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra (Haryana)

Applications are invited for filling up of vacancy to the post of Director in the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra (Haryana) in the scale of pay of Rs.2,10,000/- (fixed) plus Special Allowance of Rs.11,250/- p.m. and other admissible allowances as applicable to the Vice Chancellor of the Central Universities and the Directors of other Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs).

Director of an NIT being the academic as well as administrative head is expected to have proven administrative, teaching and research background (including significant experience in research guidance at the Ph.D. level) with leadership qualities. The appointment shall be made on contract basis for a term of five years or till attainment of the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

Eligible / interested persons may apply **ONLINE** at **www.nitcouncil.org.in**. Online application window shall be opened from 01.06.2026 to 30.06.2026 upto 12:00 midnight. Both dates are inclusive.

The detailed advertisement along with other necessary information are given in the website http://education.gov.in and www.nitcouncil.org.in.

CBC 21260/11/0001/2627

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-08,09,10,11 and 12 Dt. 25.05.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager/Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Southern. Railway, Chennai - 3, invites online tender from the experienced Contractors for the following works for further details, please refer to **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sl. No.	Tender No. / Name of the work	Value (Rs.)	Closing date/time
1	**Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-08** OHE arrangements for provision of 4 sets 10KVA ATs (LC 35, 42, 45 & 46) in connection with Provision of Electrically Operated Lifting Barriers (EOLBs) and Emergency Sliding Booms at leftover interlocked LC gates in MAS-GDR section.	5297780.52	22/06/2026 (15:00 hrs)
2	**Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-09** OHE arrangements for provision of 2 sets 10KVA ATs (LC 47 & 49) in connection with Provision of Electrically Operated Lifting Barriers (EOLBs) and Emergency Sliding Booms at leftover interlocked LC gates in AJJ-KPD section in Chennai Division.	2648890.26	22/06/2026 (15:00 hrs)
3	**Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-10** OHE arrangements for provision of 2 sets 10KVA ATs (LC 56 & 60) in connection with Provision of Electrically Operated Lifting Barriers (EOLBs) and Emergency Sliding Booms at leftover interlocked LC gates in KPD-JTJ section in Chennai Division.	2648890.26	22/06/2026 (15:00 hrs)
4	**Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-11** OHE arrangements for provision of 4 sets 10KVA ATs (LC 70A, 84, 106 & 120) in connection with Provision of Electrically Operated Lifting Barriers (EOLBs) and Emergency Sliding Booms at leftover interlocked LC gates in CGL-VM section in Chennai Division.	5297780.52	22/06/2026 (15:00 hrs)
5	**Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-12** OHE arrangements for provision of 7 sets 10KVA ATs (LCs 42 & 55 of AJJ-RU) & (LCs 6, 15, 30, 34 & 40 of CGL-AJJ) in connection with Provision of Electrically Operated Lifting Barriers (EOLBs) and Emergency Sliding Booms at leftover interlocked LC gates in CGL-AJJ-RU section in Chennai Division.	6919525.54	22/06/2026 (15:00 hrs)

Divisional Railway Manager, Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Chennai-3

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my client **Sri K.J. MOHAN REDDY** has agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owner **Sri. JAGADEESH NARSIMHAIAH, aged about 53 years,** residing at 1105 Governess Lane, Morrisville, NC-27560, represented by his sister GPA Holder **Smt. MAMATHA.N @ MAMATHA VEGINENI,** aged about 49 years, W/o Sri. Anil Kumar, residing at 287, 10th block, 4th Cross, LB Nagar, Anjanapura, Bengaluru-560 108 If any persons have any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property, they are hereby requested to file their objections along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying, with the undersigned within **14 (Fourteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential House Property bearing Property No.723/30, New EPID: 3637648409, 15th 'A Main Road, Gokul 1st Stage 1st Phase, 30, Bengaluru-560054, J.P Park Ward No.17, property measuring East to West: 40 ft and North to South 28.75 ft. and bounded on:

East By : Property bearing No.708 (705)
West By : Road
North By : Property bearing No.724
South By: Property bearing No.722

P.B. BABU, Advocate
Y.B. ASSOCIATES
Tax & Law Consultants
No. 639, 4th Main, MES Ring Road, Near Mother Theresa School, Muthyalanagar, Bangalore-560054. Mobile No.9844622922, Email id: babu.bcb@gmail.com

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender No. T-PUB-GRC-2026-430, Dt. 26.05.2026. e-Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Engineer, S.E.Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works before 15.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. **Description of Works :** Strengthening and improvement of Building Nos. 21, 18/1, 18/2, 11/1 and 11/2 along with other miscellaneous works in North Colony under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Settlement/Garden Reach, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach. **Tender Value :** ₹ 9,38,98,563.50. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 18,78,000/-. **Cost of Tender Documents :** 0. **Completion period of the work:** 18 (Eighteen) months. **Date of opening :** 22.06.2026. Any change in tender schedule, corrigendum, amendment, if any, shall be available on the E-tender portal only and same will not be published in the newspaper. Interested Tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B. :** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders. Help Desk contact no. 033-2450-3783. **(PR-238)**

RFP FOR DOUBLING OF TRACK

E-Tender Notice No. CON/2026/ APRIL/04 Dated: 30-04-2026. Open tender through e-Tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed contractor(s)/firm(s) for the following works: **Tender No. CE-CON-FT-EPC-2026-05. Name of work:** RFP for Doubling of Track between Bhojo (457.000 km) (excluding) and New Tinsukia stations (including) up to km 525.028 (Except Important Bridge No. 561 with approaches from km 503.000 to km 503.800) (67.228km) including Electrification and Signalling works in connection with Furkating - New Tinsukia doubling project of Northeast Frontier Railway in the state of Assam on Hybrid-EPC mode. **Tender value:** ₹925,35,60,249.44/-. **Date & Time of closing of tender:** At **14.30** hrs. on **03-07-2026 & opening at: 15.30** hrs. on **09-07-2026**. The complete information and tender document of above e-Tender will be available at **www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Engineer/Con/Lumding Project, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum-I

Sub: Notification of period of contract for STBA at NSG-4 category station.
Ref: This office notification dated 21.04.2026.
Applications were invited for engagement of STBA at Hindupur (HUP), Whitefield (WFD), Mandya (MYA), Ramanagaram (RMGM) and Tumkur (TK) NSG-4 category stations vide notification dated 21.04.2026. The period of contract for the STBA at NSG-4 category stations will be upto 20.05.2027. The period of contract will be extended further based on the policy guidelines received from Railway Board.

For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/161/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Bengaluru**

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: 222-S/1/W-II. Date: 22.05.2026. Following e-Tenders are invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: **Sl. No. Tender No. & Name of the work** are as follows : **1. TN-41-26-27.** BCM Machine & Deep Screening for 36.826 km at main line & TBR (P&C) - 62 Sets and other ancillary work under the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer/Baruipur (For 01 year). **Tender Value:** Rs. 4,33,27,567.87. **EMD :** Rs. 8,66,600/-. **2. TN-42-26-27.** Different Track Maintenance work along with all ancillary work in Senior Section Engineer/P.Way/LKPR under the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer/Baruipur (For 01 year). **Tender Value:** Rs. 1,24,92,762.26. **EMD :** Rs. 2,49,900/-. **3. TN-43-26-27.** Different Track Maintenance work along with all ancillary work in Senior Section Engineer/P.Way/Bangaon under the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer/Barasat. **Tender Value:** Rs. 1,56,96,584.05. **EMD :** Rs. 3,13,900/-. **Date and time of closing of tender :** 23.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs. for each. **Completion period for the work :** 12 (twelve) months for each. **Date and time of opening of tender:** 23.06.2026 at 15.30 hrs. The Tender documents and details at **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. As per Indian Railway Standard General Conditions of Contract 2022, cost of e-Tender Form is Nil.

SDAH-52/2026-27

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Book Release: '1948 Brahmanara Naramedha', authored by Vijaya Vishnu Bhat Dongre; Tejaswini Ananthkumar, SR Leela, GB Harish and others to participate; Organised by Samrudhha Sahitya, Adamya Chetana, and Girija Shastry Memorial Trust; Adamya Chetana, Gavipuram; 10.30 am.

Lecture: On 'Employee-Employer Relationship in Judicial System of Ancient India'; Shantha Nagamangala to deliver the lecture; MC Nagendra, Mahantesh Devagi and others to be present; Kannada Yuvajana Sangha Auditorium, Hombegowdanagar; 6.30 pm.

Felicitation: To achievers in Indian Forest Service examinations; Eshwar Khandre, Meenakshi Negi and others to take part; Aranya Bhavan, Malleswaram; 11 am.

CULTURAL

Play: 'Parisarada Kathe', written by KP Poornachandra Tejasvi; Organised by Datu theatre; Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; 7.30 pm.

Yakshagana Performance: 'Kumbakarna Prasanga'; Organised by Payaswini Geleyara Balaga; Nayana Auditorium, Kannada Bhavana, JC Road; 4 pm.

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◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.6°C
Minimum	13.3°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	64%
Sunset (May 28)	6:41 pm
Sunrise (May 29)	5:53 am
Moonrise	3:28 pm
Moonset	2:46 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Bowring wall collapse: HC sets aside engineer's suspension

Seven people died, 9 were injured in the incident on April 29

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has set aside the suspension of an executive engineer from the Health and Family Welfare Department in connection with the Bowring Hospital wall collapse that left seven people dead and nine injured on April 29.

However, a vacation division bench comprising Justice Suraj Govindaraj and Justice K Manmadha Rao reserved liberty for the authorities to initiate action against the executive engineer, MB Nagaraj, after the submission of inquiry reports.

On May 1, the state government suspended Nagaraj under Rule 10(1)(d) of the Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules for alleged dereliction of duty. The Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal had earlier rejected his plea seeking a stay on the suspension order.

Nagaraj later approached the high court, arguing that clause (d) of Rule 10 (1) requires "prima facie evidence of gross dereliction of duty" before suspension. He contended that no such material had been placed on record against him.

His counsel submitted that the Public Works Department (PWD) had constituted one committee to conduct a local inspection and another technical committee to examine the incident.

The petitioner argued that he could not have been suspended without reports implicating him and that the suspension order itself did not record any prima facie evidence against him.

Opposing the plea, the government argued that Nagaraj was the executive engineer responsible for the location where the wall collapsed and that this itself constituted prima facie evidence.

The division bench observed that clause (d) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 10 specifically requires prima facie evidence "against him", indicating that such evidence must relate to the officer proposed to be suspended and not merely to the incident itself.

"In the present case, the event of the falling of the compound wall by itself does not create any prima facie evidence of gross dereliction against the petitioner. Though tragic, it cannot at present be attributed to the petitioner on account of gross dereliction," the bench observed.

The court further said it was for the committees to submit their reports and determine whether there had been any gross dereliction of duty by the petitioner.

"...if that be so, the respondents would be free to exercise their powers under clause (d) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 10 of CCA Rules. At present, we are of the considered opinion that such powers could not have been exercised without application of mind and recording prima facie evidence of gross dereliction," the bench said.

Court findings

- No prima facie evidence of "gross dereliction of duty" against the engineer, as required under service rules.
- The wall collapse alone cannot automatically establish negligence by the officer without inquiry reports.
- Government can initiate fresh action later, if committee reports find negligence.

GBA defends e-khata, cites drop in illegal registrations

Says helped streamline property records in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has defended the rollout of the e-khata system and its integration with the Kaveri registration platform, stating that the reform has improved transparency and legality in Bengaluru's property management while drastically reducing registrations involving unauthorised properties.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner (Revenue and IT), GBA, alleged that "misinformation" about the system was being spread by vested interests that benefited from the earlier manual and opaque process.

According to Moudgil, nearly 85% of property transactions entering the Kaveri system before the integration of e-khata involved unauthorised layouts, illegal revenue sites, unapproved mutations or defective ownership records.

In 2024-25 alone, more than 75,000 such transactions were recorded prior to the integration, he said.

However, after the system was introduced on October 1, 2024, such transactions "reduced to almost zero", he claimed.

He said the e-khata framework has statutory backing under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, the Registration Act, and allied planning laws.

He also clarified that duly registered sale deeds, gift deeds, inheritance documents and other lawful conveyances continue to be recognised, while mutations based on registered documents are increasingly being automated to reduce delays and corruption.

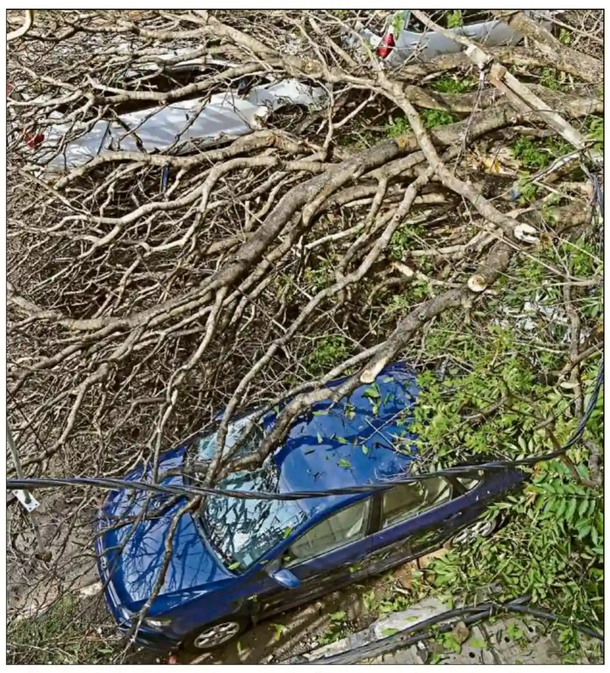
The GBA noted that manual khata registers were previously inaccessible and heavily dependent on local officials, creating scope for manipulation. Under the new system, property records have been digitised and made publicly accessible through the BBMP e-Aasthi portal.

Officials also pointed out that several writ petitions challenging the e-khata integration had come before the high court and that the framework had been upheld in those cases.

Defending the reform, Moudgil said the resistance largely stemmed from the disruption of "opaque systems" that allegedly benefited middlemen, illegal layout operators, document manipulators and speculative real-estate practices.

On grievances related to the disposal of e-khata applications, GBA officials urged citizens to make use of the weekly 'Open House' initiative, where all e-khata-related services are provided under one roof.

STORM DAMAGE



Several cars were damaged after a tree branch collapsed following heavy rain at RMS Colony in RMV 2nd Stage on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Cops crack 3 theft cases, recover Rs 3-cr booty; 17 held

BENGALURU, DHNS

Police have cracked three separate theft cases, including a house burglary, a jewellery shop break-in and a gold theft, by arresting 17 suspects and recovering stolen valuables worth nearly Rs 3 crore.

In the first case, Whitefield police arrested five people, including two each from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, in connection with separate house burglary and jewellery shop theft cases. Police recovered 584 grams of gold ornaments, a car, a watch and Rs 9.85 lakh in cash, collectively valued at Rs 1.16 crore.

According to police, the house burglary was reported on March 14, while the jewellery shop theft came to light on May 16. The suspects were traced and arrested in Hyderabad and Shivajinagar. A portion of the stolen gold was recovered from their homes, while the remaining ornaments had been sold to jewellery shops.

In another case, Halasuru Gate police arrested nine workers employed at a private gold company for stealing 618 grams of gold bars worth Rs 89 lakh. Police said the suspects, who had been working at the company for six months, fled with the valuables on May 11.

Acting on technical intelligence, police tracked the suspects while they were travelling by train towards West Bengal via Visakhapatnam and apprehended them near a railway station on May 13. During questioning, the accused told police that salary-related issues and the lure of easy money motivated the theft.

In the third incident, Bagalagunte police arrested three interstate suspects for breaking into a jewellery shop by drilling through a wall and stealing silver articles.

The burglary was reported on April 28 after the shop owner discovered damage to the rear wall of the store. The suspects escaped with silver articles worth Rs 98.39 lakh, along with laptops, mobile phones, DVR equipment and cash.

Police arrested two suspects in Rajasthan on May 8 and later apprehended another accused in Nelamangala on May 17.

Chandapura RTO shifted

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Chandapura Regional Transport Office (RTO) will be shifted to a newly constructed building near BMTC Depot 38 at Chikkanagamangala on Huskur Road in Anekal taluk from May 29. People can visit the new office for all transport department-related services, according to an official statement.

For information, contact 080-27827265.

Invites to be published should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

DH DECCAN HERALD
ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

The following vehicles of our company are FOR SALE in "As is where is condition"

INNOVA HYCROSS 7S, 7 Seater Car, Model : July-2023, Running KM as 32,300

The vehicle can be inspected at **No. 75, M.G. Road, Bangalore-1 on any working day between 10:00 am to 4.00 pm.** The offer can be shared through WhatsApp **No. +91 7411127118** in letterhead format or through mail to **dineshkumar.d@printersmysore.co.in** or it can be submitted by hand at office on or before **05-06-2026.**

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Kollur temple hundi collection hits Rs 1.94 cr

UDUPI, DHNS: The famed Kollur Mookambika temple in the district has earned more than Rs 1.94 crore, through donations by devout and pious devotees, in the latest hundi collection.

The temple authorities opened 41 hundis and carried out the counting process under tight security arrangements and in the presence of officials.

According to the temple sources, the hundis contained cash donations amounting to Rs 1,90,43,819.

The value of other offerings, including 0.325 grams of gold and 2.370 kilograms of silver, was more than Rs 4 lakh.

The officials said that the temple, one of the prominent pilgrimage centres in the region, had been witnessing a steady influx of devotees from different parts of Karnataka as well as neighbouring states seeking the blessings of Goddess Mookambika and had also resulted in the continuous rise in the offerings.

Anonymous devotee donates gold medallions worth Rs 1.1 cr to TTD

TIRUPATI, PTI: An anonymous devotee from Mysuru on Wednesday donated five gold medallions worth over Rs 1 crore to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), the official custodian of the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple.

Meanwhile, two devotees from Chennai --- Gopala Krishna and Purushottam --- donated silver 'nakshatra aratis' (star-shaped ritual items) weighing 4.5 kg to the deity, according to a press release issued by the temple body.

"An anonymous devotee from Mysuru donated five gold medallions worth Rs 1.1 crore," the release said.

The 'nakshatra aratis' were handed over to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Deputy Executive Officer Lokanatham at the Ranga Nayakula Mandapam in Tirumala, the release added.

TTD administers the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, widely regarded as the richest Hindu shrine in the world.

Committee plans mass documentation drive for evicted Kogilu residents

Affected families now live in makeshift homes in Kogilu Cross

Hundreds of displaced families from Kogilu and civil society volunteers staged a protest at Freedom Park on May 18. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU DHNS

As a last-ditch effort to help evicted residents, the Kogilu Layout Victims' Struggle Committee plans to launch a mass documentation drive.

Last week, hundreds of displaced families and activists of various civil society groups staged a protest at Freedom Park, more than five months after an anti-encroachment drive left over 200 families homeless in Yelahanka's Kogilu Layout. The protesters raised slogans of 'Give us a home, or send us to jail', accusing the state government of not fulfilling its rehabilitation promises.

What was meant to be an indefinite strike was called off after receiving assurance from the deputy commissioner that a date would soon be set for a meeting to discuss housing for displaced Kogilu residents.

While the meeting is yet to be called, the residents remain hopeful. "In the meantime, instead of going on strike in Freedom Park, we have instead planned a mass documentation drive. We're urging the displaced residents to line up at the government offices concerned, to apply for all the documents that the state government has demanded," said Nandini, a member of the committee.

The displaced residents are reportedly being asked to produce an extensive list of paperwork, including income certificates, voter IDs, ration cards and bank details.

"For many of these documents, when the paperwork concerned is not available, government officials are required to come to their place of residence and inspect it themselves," she added.

Currently, the affected families have resorted to living in makeshift homes within Kogilu Cross.

"This matter needs to be addressed immediately, as the families have nowhere to go once the monsoon hits. They're living in homes made of tarpaulin, which are being ripped apart by the pre-monsoon rains. Once the monsoon fully begins, it's going to be a complete mess as the area gets heavily flooded. As it stands, the kids' education has been stopped, and women have no proper washrooms. These matters need to be addressed. The government needs to take some action," said Issac Amrutha Raj, state president, Slum Janara Sanghatane-Karnataka.

What DC says

Jagadeesha G, Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner, clarified that no official from his department had assured of a meeting with government officials. "The residents are asking for a meeting with ministers. My office does not authorise that," he told *DH*.

Aspirants demand KSRTC jobs based on old notification

BENGALURU, DHNS

More than 100 aspirants, who had applied for the posts of driver-cum-conductors in the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) under the 2020 notification and passed the driving tests, gathered at the transporter's central office on Wednesday, demanding recruitment.

The 2020 notification to recruit more drivers-cum-conductors through direct recruitment stalled due to the pandemic, eventually leading to the recruitment in 2025. After an eight-year gap in recruitment, the corporation recruited 2,000 driver-cum-conductors in June 2025, while the initial notification had been sent for 2,545 vacancies.

"It is unfair that 545 of us were left unemployed. Our document verification and all other tests were completed. We were ready with the appointment letter, but since the Finance Department only approved the recruitment of 2,000 drivers, we were left hanging at the last minute," said Naveen, 35.

Now, the remaining 545 are requesting the corporation to recruit them under the new notifications on the basis of their previous tests.

"We've already passed all the tests. Who's to say we'll get the same results if we take the test again? It's unfair if all our hard work goes to waste," said another aspirant.

KSRTC Managing Director Akram Pasha clarified that the test results of the 545 aspirants would no longer hold good. "They'll need to appear for the tests again under the new notification, especially as the reservation policy has changed since then," he told *DH*.

The corporation has reached out to the Finance Department for approval to fill vacancies — 2,000 driver-cum-conductors and mechanics each.

5 of family killed in accident

MOLAKALMURU (CHITRADURGA DISTRICT), DHNS: In a tragic accident, five members of a family, including two two-year-old children died after the goods vehicle they were travelling in smashed into a parked lorry along the stretch of the National Highway-150A near Byrapura in Molakalmuru, Chitradurga on Wednesday.

Venkatesh and Shivamma, both aged 28, Meenakshi (18), Puja and Purushottama, aged two, killed in the accident.

The victims were residents of Gudaaranagar in Ballari district.

Venkatesh and the rest of the family had been to Davanagere to purchase vessels, and were returning to Gudaaranagar when tragedy struck.

Such was the impact of the crash that the goods vehicle was left severely damaged. While the two children, Meenakshi and Shivamma died on the spot, Venkatesh, who had been at the wheel of the goods vehicle, sustained severe injuries. But he died en route to a hospital in Ballari.

B'ghatta Zoo to display cheetahs

BENGALURU, DHNS: The four cheetahs that were brought from South Africa will be on display for the public at Bannerghatta Zoo starting June 4.

In a press release, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said that the quarantine period of the animals has ended. He said a meeting was held with the chief wildlife warden, following which a decision was taken to release the animals into a newly built display area.

JCTU welcomes minimum wages' decision

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Joint Committee of Trade Unions (JCTU) on Wednesday welcomed the Karnataka government's decision to revise minimum wages.

"The JCTU and its constituents have been consistently pressing the government for the long-pending revision. In fact, a statewide agitation had been planned for the revision of minimum wages on May 27, 2026. In light of the final notification, the statewide agitation has been called off," the JCTU noted in a press release.

Congratulating the Karnataka government and Labour Minister Santosh Lad, the JCTU noted that the increase in minimum wages will boost the state's economy by increasing consumption expenditure, which in turn will boost the aggregate demand.

"The powerful employers' lobby has indulged in fear mongering with wild claims of flight of capital and delayed the process of revision until now. These fears of flight of capital are nonsensical. In fact, the same claims were made during the earlier revision in 2016-17. The reality is that since 2016-17, more investment has come to the state of Karnataka."

Public utilities must use AI, digital intelligence: CS

They are no longer optional, says Shalini Rajneesh

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh and others water a plant at the inaugural ceremony of the national AI and digital water summit organised by the BWSSB in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital intelligence are no longer optional tools and public utilities need to use them, Chief Secretary (CS) Shalini Rajneesh said at the National AI and digital water summit, organised by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

Through discussions on developing a water stack to using AI to cut down on power consumption and leakages, the summit explored various possibilities of using AI in water management.

Shalini Rajneesh noted that intelligent governance systems are becoming essential to ensure efficient, transparent and accountable public services.

"AI and digital intelligence are no longer optional tools for urban utilities. Real-time monitoring, predictive analytics, demand forecasting and data-driven governance will define the future of water management," she said.

Karnataka is positioning itself as a national leader in AI-driven urban water governance, with artificial intelligence and digital technologies set to play a central role in managing future challenges such as climate change, rapid urbanisation, groundwater depletion, and infrastructure stress, she opined.

However, technology alone cannot bring about transformative change, said Additional Chief Secretary Tushar Girinath. "AI systems can only achieve absolute success when complemented by institutional frameworks, government mechanisms, and human cooperation," he said. He also stressed the critical need for a united, collaborative approach in future urban governance.

BWSSB Chairman Dr Ram Prasath Manohar said Bengaluru's scale and complexity demand a shift from conventional utility operations to predictive and intelligent management systems.

From SCADA systems, GIS-based mapping to IoT-enabled monitoring and automated leak detection systems, the BWSSB has already implemented many technological systems, he noted.

Using the SCADA systems, Bengaluru is already capturing a lot of data and it is now time to use various AI models to integrate these systems and use them to analyse the system.

"It is time we use the captured data under various AI models to ensure the systems talk to each other. This will improve efficiency," said Nilachal Mishra, Partner and Head, Government and Public Services, KPMG in India.

'Israel open to sharing tech with BWSSB'

Israel is open to sharing its learnings on water management with the BWSSB and is ready to share its technology with the board, Orli Weitzman, Consul General of Israel, said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the National AI and digital water summit, Orli said that the 20th century was about developing water infrastructure and the 21st century should focus on developing water intelligence. "It is no longer a question of if we want to use AI and other technologies, but it is how quickly and inclusively we can do so," she said.

She opined that government institutions should improve their capacity to implement AI-enabled systems.

"In the future, we cannot continue to go ahead with reactive maintenance – addressing the issues when they come up. We should move towards preventive maintenance where we can prevent and adapt," she said.

AI can help ease challenge of migration: Experts

BENGALURU, DHNS: Technology can ease the burden on government authorities battling to address the challenges of migration into urban pockets, panellists said at the national AI and digital water summit.

While migration cannot be avoided and actually aids economic growth, it comes with many challenges like water management, solid waste management, and other urban problems and technology can help address these, they noted.

"We cannot wish away migration. But AI can help us improve and address the challenges in water management. For instance, AI can act as a super coordinator between various systems and departments. It can also help predict the demand and take decisions swiftly," said Rajesh Gowda, managing director, Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Ltd (KRIDL).

Dr T K Sreedevi, secretary, Department of Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Telangana, said that apart from migration to bigger cities, in situ urbanisation is also happening among smaller rural pockets.

"The scope of AI is not limited and we can use it to implement circularity in managing water and look at wastewater management," she said.

In water management, it is crucial to integrate systems using AI to achieve better efficiency, experts said.

IFS officers transferred

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government has notified the transfer orders issued to two Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers. Accordingly, Shinde Nilesh Deoba will continue to be the director of Anshi-Dandeli National Park, Kali Tiger Reserve Forest, Uttara Kannada. Sumitkumar Subhashrao Patil will be the deputy conservator of forests (DCF) of Bidar, not the Virajpet division. Ashish Reddy M V will replace Patil as DCF, Kalaburagi Division.

AI, IndiGo cut domestic flights

Flights, From Page 1

They noted that the rationalisation of domestic flights has been mainly driven by higher fuel prices and lower demand.

Air India operates around 4,400 weekly flights. Out of them, about 3,600 are domestic, and 800 are international services.

"In continuation of our previously announced adjustments to select international services between June and August 2026, we have temporarily rationalised operations on certain domestic routes during the same period, with a reduction in frequencies on select routes," Air India said in a statement on Wednesday.

The officials said 20-22% of the domestic flights would be reduced. Based on the around 3,600 weekly domestic flights, the 22% cut would result in a reduction of more than 790 weekly services.

Air India Express said it has been making calibrated adjustments to optimise its network and align capacity with changes in demand.

"The impact on domestic frequencies is less than 10%," the airline said in a release.

The airline operates around 3,000 weekly flights, and out of them, around 2,400 are domestic services.

An IndiGo official said it has reduced services considering the slowdown in demand and seasonal adjustment, which is done every year from mid-June to August. There were no comments from IndiGo, Akasa Air and SpiceJet on the rationalisation of flights.

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SC upholds SIR, says it fulfils goal...

SIR, From Page 1

The bench observed that the reasons cited by the EC, including the passage of over four decades since the last intensive revision, large-scale additions and deletions, urbanisation and migration leading to possible duplications, were valid and aimed at preserving the credibility of the electoral process.

"When the statute itself authorises a special revision at any time, the impugned exercise cannot be invalidated merely because it does not conform in every respect to the ordinary modalities contemplated for routine revision," the bench said.

Rejecting the petitioners' contentions, the court held that the SIR does not supplant the statutory framework but operates within it.

"Rather, it breathes life into the constitutional mandate under Article 324 within the precise statutory contours provided by Section 21(3). Therefore, it cannot be said that the Commission has acted in excess of its statutory powers," the CJI wrote in 124-page judgment for the bench.

The court found the deletions effected after the SIR exercise cannot be said to be contrary to the procedure prescribed under Rule 21A of the 1960 Rules.

"The safeguards of notice and hearing are preserved in substance, and the process adopted by the Commission remains within the bounds of the statutory mandate," it said.

The top court clarified that merely calling upon electors to furnish supporting documents does not negate the presumption of citizenship, which remains rebuttable.

The court also ruled that the procedure adopted by the EC does not violate the principles laid down in the Lal Babu Hussein judgment and that adequate safeguards of notice and hearing have been preserved.

On the documentation requirements, the bench upheld the EC's framework as reasonable and non-arbitrary.

It further held that the SIR satisfies the test of proportionality.

The court also ruled that while the EC is empowered to examine questions relating to citizenship for the limited purpose of preparing or revising electoral rolls, its determination is not conclusive.

"Any deletion on this ground must be referred to the competent authority under the Citizenship Act, and remains subject to its final adjudication," the bench said.

The court directed the EC to forward to the Union government, within four weeks, the names of persons deleted from the 2003 Bihar electoral rolls on grounds of doubtful citizenship.

The petitions were filed by various individuals and organisations, including the Association for Democratic Reforms, Yogendra Yadav, and several opposition leaders such as Mahua Moitra, Manoj Jha, K C Venugopal and Supriya Sule.

The petitioners had termed the SIR an "NRC-like" exercise that imposed a fresh burden on voters to prove citizenship.

If Rahul Gandhi removes OBC leader Siddaramaiah, it will prove that he is not for the OBCs. His decision will impact the INDI alliance; the OBC leaders in the alliance will not take this decision kindly.

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
Former chief minister

Whether Siddaramaiah continues, DK Shivakumar takes over or someone else is imposed by the Congress high command, this bankrupt government has absolutely nothing meaningful to offer.

R ASHOKA
Opposition leader

We told Siddaramaiah not to resign. All lawmakers who met him said he should continue. He said he couldn't, since the high command has decided.

R V DESHPANDE
Senior Cong lawmaker

Whoever replaces Siddaramaiah will have an uphill task and will have to wade through the same dirty waters of deep-rooted corruption and a complete pause in development work.

B Y VIJAYENDRA
State BJP president

The high command has decided on our pleas for change. I thank God on behalf of everyone. This is the happiest time of my life.

IQBAL HUSSAIN
Cong MLA, Ramanagar

By 'forcing' CM out, is Cong risking Ahinda drift?

BLOC WAS HIS STEPPING STONE: Kuruba strongman repurposed social engg tool, giving it shape & leadership

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

If Siddaramaiah steps down as chief minister, the impact on Congress's Ahinda vote bank will hinge on one question: did he create Ahinda or did he simply consolidate it? The answer could shape the party's prospects in 2028 Assembly polls.

As Karnataka braces for a possible power transition, the larger political question is whether his exit will weaken Congress' Ahinda base. Ahinda — minorities, Dalits and backward classes — has long been Congress's core social coalition. Siddaramaiah did not invent it, but gave it political shape and leadership.

His 2005 expulsion from JD(S) after floating the Ahinda movement, followed by his 2006 entry into Congress with a group of JD(S) leaders, made him the face of the bloc. He became chief minister twice.

Siddaramaiah strengthened Ahinda by elevating his former JD(S) colleagues - Dr H C Mahadevappa, Satish Jarkiholi, Zameer Ahmed Khan and Byrathi Suresh, often overshadowing the "original" Congress leaders including Dr G Parameshwara, P M Narendraswamy, H M Revanna, Roshan Baig and Tanveer Sait.

In doing so, he sustained Devaraj Urs' social justice experiment of broad-basing OBC leadership while keeping Vokkaliga-Lingayat-Brahmin dominance in check, note party veterans.

His Ahinda politics helped Congress secure 43% vote share and 135 seats in 2023, including 21 of 36 SC seats and 14 of 15 ST seats.

But the victory was also shaped by Shivakumar's organisational push, Lingayat anger against BJP after B S Yediyurappa's exit as CM, the 'big five' guarantee schemes and Vokkaliga support shifting to Congress in anticipation of Shivakumar becoming CM.

"The Ahinda vote swing will depend on how Siddaramaiah handles his stepping down and how he aligns with the party in the next two years. His son is likely to be inducted into the Cabinet and his interests will be taken care of. In the last elections itself, non-dominant OBCs had started shifting towards BJP, and Congress win was largely due to Dalit vote, a marginal split in Lingayat vote and Vokkaliga votes," said political analyst Dr Sandeep Shastri.

Delay in implementing SC internal reservation and caste survey report, alleged diversion of SCP/TSP funds and Muslim resentment seen in Davangere South bypoll exposed limits of Ahinda consolidation and Congress' dependence on Siddaramaiah.

If he moves to Rajya Sabha, Congress risks an Ahinda drift unless the transition is smooth as Ahinda voters may feel sidelined, much like Lingayats did after Veerendra Patil's ouster or Yediyurappa's exit.

Siddaramaiah's stepping down will not dismantle Ahinda overnight.

Congress' challenges will be to keep the bloc intact, nurture new Ahinda faces and ensure continuity of guarantees.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah waves at staffers, while leaving Vidhana Soudha after a meeting of the Backward Classes Commission on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

After marathon meetings, Rahul 'pressed' CM to quit

Declined plea for 2 weeks' time for caste census report

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Details of the marathon Congress meetings in Delhi on Tuesday that triggered the change of guard in Karnataka indicate party high command's insistence on immediate change in leadership even as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah sought two weeks time to table the caste census report in the Cabinet.

Sources told *DH* that Siddaramaiah was reminded that he had already exceeded two-and-a-half years power-sharing agreement made with his deputy D K Shivakumar in 2023 when Congress won a thumping majority.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, is learnt to have reminded the veteran leader that he has to honour the promise made three years ago.

After intense deliberations, including exclusive closed-door discussions with Rahul Gandhi, Siddaramaiah agreed to resign without further delay.

The Congress high command told the CM that his services would be utilised at the national level in Delhi.

The party leadership, including Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, is understood to have backed the leadership change to uphold the party's credibility regarding such understanding.

While praising the state government's performance, Rahul emphasised the need for unity, and urged both leaders to abide by the high command's decision.

This was followed by Rahul's joint meeting with Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. Later he held a separate meeting with both the leaders.

Rahul later held another exclusive discussion with Siddaramaiah in the evening, reiterating the high command's position.

When Siddaramaiah attempted to explain that no formal agreement existed for stepping down in 2025, Rahul stood firm on the party's position.

The Congress leadership is also learnt to have reminded Siddaramaiah that he had already served as chief minister for over eight years and as leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, and it was time to give others an opportunity.

After emerging from the meeting, Siddaramaiah, sources say, consulted senior leaders Venugopal and Randeep Surjewala, who also advised him to accept the high command's directive.

Later in the evening, Siddaramaiah drove to the residence of Energy Minister K J George and met his close confidantes.

Some ministers reportedly suggested he should not take a hurried decision, but Siddaramaiah told them he would not wait any longer.

"From the very beginning, I have been saying that I would resign whenever Rahul asked me to. Now that Rahul has asked me to step down, I will quit immediately," Siddaramaiah told his ministerial colleagues, according to sources.

The development marks a significant leadership transition in Karnataka, with the Congress high command prioritising adherence to the original power-sharing understanding to maintain internal discipline, a senior leader in the Congress said.

After the May 2023 Assembly elections, an informal power-sharing pact was reportedly agreed upon at the time between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, under which Siddaramaiah would serve for the first 2.5 years (roughly until late 2025) as the CM before making way for Shivakumar for the remaining 2.5 years. Siddaramaiah has publicly denied any such formal agreement.

After losing power at the Centre in 2014, Congress high command has found it difficult to rein in regional satraps like Ashok Gehlot in Rajasthan, Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh in Madhya Pradesh and Bhupesh Baghel in Chhattisgarh. In the three states, the party was not able to usher in leadership change despite having promised rotational chief ministership to other aspirants.

After winning big in Kerala recently and having got into a coalition government in Tamil Nadu, Congress leadership is now sending a strong message to the party leaders in the state to fall in line.

DKS' likely elevation bodes ill for JD(S)

BENGALURU, DHNS: The likelihood of Shivakumar's elevation to CM's post spells bad news for JD(S).

The perceptible shift in Vokkaligas' support to Congress in the 2023 Assembly elections, largely prompted by the belief that Shivakumar would be made CM, was cited as one of the main reasons for poor showing of JD(S). The emergence of Shivakumar as dominant Vokkaliga leader could threaten the political future of former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda's family.

H D Kumaraswamy and D K Shivakumar (left) after they were sworn in as chief minister and minister, respectively in the JD(S)-Congress coalition government. Now, both will compete for Vokkaliga votes. DH FILE PHOTO

A political analyst said Congress party's triumph in Old Mysore region in the 2023 polls as evidence of growing support among Vokkaligas for Shivakumar. "In Mandya, Vokkaligas shifted loyalty from JD(S) to Congress," said the analyst. The Vokkaligas, experts said, are understandably excited at the prospect of a leader from their community occupying the top post. "He has a connect with both rural and urban voters," said an expert. Deve Gowda's position as Vokkaliga strongman, however, remains unchallenged, said a few other experts.

"Gowda's influence will endure for a long period. Shivakumar may not command the loyalty of the entire community, and its support is likely to be divided between the two leaders," said Chambi Puranik, a political analyst.

The BJP central leadership is likely to project Kumaraswamy as CM candidate in 2028 since the saffron party is keen on securing the support of one of the largest communities, added Puranik.

Senior journalist C Rudrappa said, "The many protests the former PM led for Vokkaligas' interests earned him enduring popularity. However, in the last election, we saw Vokkaligas favour Shivakumar," he added. Rudrappa said the 2028 elections would be challenging for JD(S).

"It can also impact BJP, which is in alliance with JD(S). Shivakumar can secure support of young voters among Vokkaligas," said Rudrappa.

"Both Gowda and Shivakumar are round-the-clock politicians, both bridged the urban-rural divide," he said.

Tension outside 'Cauvery' as supporters rally behind Siddu

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tension gripped the area outside Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's official residence, Cauvery, on Wednesday evening after thousands of supporters gathered amid developments surrounding his possible resignation.

The sudden political developments triggered emotional scenes both at Vidhana Soudha and outside the chief minister's residence on Kumara Krupa Road, amid reports that the Congress high command had directed Siddaramaiah to step down.

As news of his possible exit spread rapidly across the city, large numbers of Congress workers, Siddaramaiah loyalists and people claiming to represent the Ahinda community assembled outside Cauvery, shouting slogans against the party high command.

The protesters demanded that Siddaramaiah be allowed to continue as chief minister, arguing that the Congress government in Karnataka remained strong because of his leadership and mass appeal.

The supporters warned that removing Siddaramaiah from the post could adversely affect the party in the 2028 Assembly elections.

The gathering soon swelled into the thousands, prompting heightened security arrangements around the residence and adjoining stretches of Kumara Krupa Road.

Police personnel were deployed in large numbers to prevent untoward incidents and disperse the crowd.

As slogan-shouting intensified, police took several protesters into preventive custody and shifted them from the spot in buses.

Police personnel guard the area outside the chief minister's official residence on Kumara Krupa Road in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Reject Cabinet berths, if there's no Dalit CM: Chalavadi

MYSURU, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, on Wednesday, challenged Dalit leaders in the Congress to reject Cabinet berths and stage a protest, if party high command fails to nominate a Dalit leader as chief minister.

He told a press meet, "I have no objections if Shivakumar becomes chief minister. But it hurts deeply if Congress continues to treat Dalits merely as vote bank, falsely promising them the top post."

He was commenting on speculations that Siddaramaiah may step down, to make way for a new CM, possibly Shivakumar. The BJP leader said, "The Congress has completely cornered and suppressed Dalit leaders. The Dalit leadership in Congress completely lacks power to demand leadership"."

When asked if BJP would pitch for Dalit CM if voted to power, he said, "Our party has consistently given high positions to Dalits, without us even asking".

New govt may have multiple DCMs

BENGALURU, DHNS: The new government, likely to be headed by D K Shivakumar, may have multiple deputy chief ministers.

It is possible that deputy chief ministers from Muslim, Dalit, Lingayat or OBC communities will be appointed, sources said. Keeping the upcoming Assembly elections in mind, the high command is reportedly preferring a 'new-look' Cabinet.

Apparently, over a dozen lawmakers aged below 50 may be picked. Legislators elected once or twice are likely to find a place in the new Cabinet. The Cabinet formation could be linked with the appointment of a new state Congress president.

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, who belongs to Valmiki (ST) community, is leading the race for the party president's post. However, it is also said that the Congress may consider a Lingayat for the post.

As per discussions, three sitting ministers may be appointed as working presidents of the party.

3 ministers to opt out?

At least 3 senior ministers in the present Cabinet may choose not to join the new government. Two of them are known Siddaramaiah loyalists. This is reminiscent of the stance Jagadish Shettar took when Basavaraj Bommai became chief minister in 2021.

State will witness mid-term elections, predicts Vijayendra

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: The Congress government will not complete five years in office, and Karnataka will witness mid-term elections, predicted Karnataka BJP president B Y Vijayendra on Wednesday.

Confusion and dissidence within the ranks of the Congress party had brought administration to a standstill in the state, said Vijayendra. "The government's failure has come to the attention of the Congress high command, which is why the party leaders have decided to replace the chief minister," said the BJP chief.

Regardless of who succeeds Siddaramaiah, the next chief minister faces a daunting task ahead, said Vijayendra, pointing to the Rs 10 lakh crore debt that the state has incurred.

"The state's financial condition has worsened. The leader who succeeds Siddaramaiah will have to bring the state's economy back on track," said Vijayendra.

Siddaramaiah is being forced to resign despite the Congress winning byelections, owing to rampant corruption in the government, alleged Vijayendra. Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's record run of 12 years at the helm, he said, "Modi has led the country along the path of development while ensuring there is no scandal. This is commendable."

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shivamogga Division, Shivamogga
Territoril Divison Office, DC Compound, Shimoga-577201.
Email ID:dcf.shivamoga@gmail.com Tel :08182-272210 FAX No: 08182-22565
No: B2/Logging/e-Auction/Kuruvalli/CR-02/2026-27. Date: 25-05-2026.

Tender Notice for e-Auction of Forest Produce

This is to inform the public that the Government NATA Depot, Kuruvalli, Thirthahalli Ragne, Shivamogga Division, will dispose of the NATA/Timber/Billets/Poles stored there through e-auction at 02.00 pm to 04.45 pm on on 18.06.2026

Interested bidders may participate in the auction subject to the conditions mentioned in the detailed auction notice of this office vide No. B2/Logging/E-Auction/Kuruvalli/CR-02/2026-27 dated 25.05.2026. For further information regarding the e-auction, this office may be contacted during office hours. Details regarding the e-auction can also be obtained from the official websites of the Government of Karnataka: www.etimber.in and Government of India: www.mstcecommerce.com.

Details of Forest Produce Put Up for e-Auction

Sl. No	Name of Depot	Details of the Produce		Lot No	Esitmated Quantity (in Sq Mts)	Required total no.of Sessions
1	Government NATA / Timber Museum, Kuruvalli	Acacia	NATA /Timber	188	752.036	Date: 18.06.2026 III & IV Session
2		Acacia Hybrid	NATA /Timber	03	2.482	
3		Acacia Springvale	NATA /Timber	04	9.004	
4		Acacia	NATA /Timber	50	90.325	
5		Other varieties	NATA /Timber	01	1.325	
6		Eucalyptus Pellita	NATA /Timber	11	63.196	
7		Acacia	Billets	08	193.196	
		Total lots		**265**		

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shivamogga Division, Shivamogga
DIPR/ksmca/smg/26-27/112/05/286

The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd
Publishers of DECCAN HERALD, PRAJAVANI, SUDHA & MAYURA
No.7-12, Kumbalgodu Indl. Area, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 74

ALUMINUM WASTE FOR SALE

Sealed Tenders are invited for the disposal of the following Scrapped Aluminum wastes from our Press at Bangalore, Dharwad , Mangalore, Harihara, Mysore, Gulbarga and Hospet.

Details	Location - wise quantity in Kgs available						
	Bangalore	Dharwad	Mangalore	Harihara	Mysore	Kalaburgi	Hospet
Scrapped Aluminum Sheets	6-7 Tons	2-4 Tons	2-3 Tons	2-3 Tons	2 Tons	2-3 Tons	1-2 Tons

For clarification, contact Procurement Head at **babu.v@printersmysore.co.in**, **venu.tl@printersmysore.co.in**, Ph: 25880340 Mob: 9900042650. Sealed Tenders/e-mail may be addressed within 7 days from the date of this advertisement.

Government of Karnataka.
(PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DEPTARTMENT)
Office of the Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division Bidar.
No: EE/PRED/BDR/TS-1/2026-27/251 Date: 27.05.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers, for 03 works approved under various schemes as per KW-04 in Two Cover System. Amount put to tender for the works are Minimum **Rs. 221,34,101.01** (Rupees Two Crore Twenty One Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand One Hundred One and paise one only) & Maximum **Rs. 309,47,853.51** (Rupees Three Crore Nine Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Three and paise fifty one only) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz. http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Tenders must be submitted through KPPP portal on 27.05.2026 to or before 16.00 hours up to 10.06.2026 Technical Bid will be opened on 11.06.2026 & Financial Bid will be opened on 17.06.2026 respectively. Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP portal or can be had from the undersigned.
(Work Indent No:- RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT26836 RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT26595 & RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT26680).

DIPR/Bidar/42/KSMC&A/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E.Division Bidar.

Govt turns to pvt firms for 5th gen fighter

Fighter jet, from flap

After the three companies submit their responses to the AMCA RFP, the selection process for the project should be completed in four to five months, sources said. The selected private defence major will work with the Aeronautical Development Agency to develop the prototypes.

According to the RFP, the winning bidder will be required to set up manufacturing infrastructure, integrate advanced systems, support flight testing and ultimately position itself as the backbone of the country's future combat aircraft production.

Fifth generation fighter aircraft have better stealth, superior sensors for improved situational awareness and ability to super-cruise when compared against their fourth generation counterparts. Globally, there are four such fifth-generation aircraft: the F-22 Raptor and F-35A Lightning-II from the USA; the J-20 of China; and the Su-57 from Russia. In addition, China is working on a carrier-based 5th generation aircraft (J-35A) and there are unconfirmed reports of a Chinese 6th generation fighter.

The Indian Air Force is currently operating with its lowest strength of 29 fighter squadrons against the sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons. The Defence Ministry is pursuing multiple avenues such as buying 114 Rafale fighter jets from France and indigenous production of 180 LCA Tejas Mk-1A to beef up the IAF's squadron strength.

3 die in lightning strikes as unseasonal rains continue to batter parts of K'taka

BENGALURU, DHNS

The pre-monsoon showers, coupled with lightning and thunder and high-velocity winds, continued to lash the parched districts of Kalyana Karnataka on Wednesday. Several parts of south Karnataka, including Hunsur, also experienced the unseasonal rains with heightened thunder activity.

Three people were killed in lightning strikes - one in Yadgir and two in Hunsur taluk of Mysuru district. Taukal Patel (42) of Roja (Anabi) village in Shahapur taluk of Yadgir district, was struck dead by lightning. Two farmers from Hunsur taluk were killed in lightning strikes. The deceased have been identified as Yashodhamma (50) of Hosapur village, and Appaiah (60) of Maalada Haadi.

Several heads of livestock also perished in lightning strikes in several parts of the state, including Yadgir and Hassan districts.

Heavy showers in the last few days infuse life into Kagina river. The river in spate at Dandoti in Chittapur taluk of Kalaburagi district.

Totnalli Mahanteshwar Mutt in Sedam taluk submerged following flash floods in a stream. The region received sharp showers coupled with heightened thunder activity in the small hours of Wednesday. DH PHOTOS

Heavy showers in the small hours of Wednesday affected normal life in Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Raichur districts. Skies opened up at 4 am and it poured for the next four hours. The downpour infused life into streams and rivers in the region. Flash floods and tree falls affected traffic at several places in the region. Acres of farmlands in Aland and Sedam taluks were submerged following flash floods in Kamalavathi river and streams.

Totnalli Mahanteshwara Mutt in Sedam taluk was submerged following floods in a stream that drains into Kagina river.

Tundershowers flooded Mannalli road, Bommagondeshwar Circle, Harurageri, Vidyanagar, Mailur Cross, Kumbarwada Cross, and Guppa Ring Road Circle in Bidar.

Nalatwad town in Vijayapura district received good rainfall on Wednesday morning.

A sharp spell of rain in the wee hours left the streets and low-lying areas of Raichur city waterlogged.

Tumakuru city and parts of the district continued to experience thundershowers.

Heavy rain, accompanied by gusty winds, at Adaguru and surrounding areas under Halebid holbi of Hassan district, damaged ready to harvest sweet pumpkin, tomato and beans. The crops on several acres in the region have been buried under the mud swept by flash floods in a stream.

Tension as ED searches Pinarayi's residence

Pinarayi, from flap

Police later said four party workers were held while eight others were still wanted. The police also came under strong criticism for failing to prevent the attack.

The searches, which started by around 6.30 am lasted till afternoon, were in connection with the financial transactions of Vijayan's daughter, Veena T, and her Bengaluru-based firm Exalogic Solutions with mining firm Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL).

The raids were carried out at 12 locations, including at the residence of Vijayan, his son-in-law (Veena's husband) and former minister Mohammed Riyas, CMRL chief promoter Sasidharan Kartha and CMRL offices. Exalogic Solutions's office in Bengaluru was also reportedly raided.

The CPM leadership alleged the ED action was part of the BJP's targeted moves against the Opposition parties and that the ruling Congress was backing the action against CPM leaders as part of a deal with the BJP. The searches happened a day after the Kerala High Court dismissed a petition of the CMRL seeking to quash the ED proceedings.

The ED team took detailed statements of Veena, who has been staying with Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram. The officials are learnt to have collected her bank account details.

As the news of the ED searches spread, CPM workers in large numbers gathered at all the locations and shouted slogans against the central agency. Party's senior leaders were also in the forefront of protest marches at various places. Vijayan, who is now the Opposition leader, said the searches at his house were part of the BJP's agenda of targeting leaders of Opposition parties using the ED. He said the Congress is backing the central agency's actions. "Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who has been asking why the ED was not taking action against me, would be happy now," he said.

CPM state secretary M V Govindan and other leaders said a Congress-BJP deal against the Left party was clear as the searches happened a day after Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. They also alleged that even as some ministers in the UDF government also accepted funds from the mining firm, they were not facing any probe. Vjayan's daughter's alleged shady financial deals surfaced after the Income Tax Interim Settlement Board found that the mining firm paid Rs. 1.72 crore to her and her Bengaluru-based IT firm.

A subsequent probe by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office's (SFIO) found that Vijayan's daughter allegedly received Rs. 2.70 crore from the mining firm. Based on these, the ED also initiated the probe.

Veena maintained that the payments were for services rendered by her firm.

Supreme Court upholds 28% GST on online gaming and betting

GST, from flap

The court held that once participants stake money or money's worth on uncertain future outcomes, the activity acquires the character of betting and gambling under the GST framework, irrespective of the degree of skill involved. "Online gaming activities, including fantasy sports and other games played on digital platforms, involving staking upon uncertain outcomes, constitute betting and gambling for the purpose of GST framework," the court ruled. Justice R Mahadevan, pronouncing the judgment, declared, "The levy of GST on the supply of actionable claims arising from betting and gambling is constitutionally valid and does not transgress Articles 366(12) and 366(12A) of the Constitution."

The court clarified that the tax is levied on the taxable supply of actionable claims and not directly on the act of betting or gambling. It emphasised that mere commercial hardship or higher tax incidence cannot render a fiscal law unconstitutional. The bench held that online gaming operators are not mere intermediaries facilitating transactions between players but are themselves suppliers of actionable claims. The amounts staked by participants constitute consideration for the supply of such actionable claims, making them liable to GST, it said.

The ruling comes in the backdrop of a major dispute over the valuation of supplies in online real-money gaming. Before the 2023 amendment to the CGST Act, platforms paid 18% GST only on their commission (Gross Gaming Revenue). Following the amendment, the government imposed 28% GST on the full face value of deposits or bets placed by users. The decision is expected to have far-reaching implications for the online gaming industry, where cumulative tax demands running into over Rs one lakh crore had been issued by authorities.

DKS set for coronation as Siddu gets ready to resign

Resign, From Page 1

While Siddaramaiah returned from New Delhi on Tuesday, Shivakumar stayed back in the national capital and held meetings Wednesday.

According to sources, the party's top brass has advised Shivakumar to instruct his supporters to refrain from raising slogans or making public statements until the internal situation stabilises. Shivakumar was also asked to remain in Delhi to prevent large gatherings of his supporters in Bengaluru.

There is speculation that a section of MLAs, especially those in Siddaramaiah's camp, would press for a vote during the CLP meeting. Some want a signature campaign in favour of Siddaramaiah.

However, lawmakers R V Deshpande and AS Ponnanna denied this.

Socio-edu survey: Panel bats for 42% OBC quota

Survey, from flap

Based on the survey conducted by the Kantharaj Commission, the Jayaprakash Hegde-led KSCBC submitted its report in February 2024. Though the report was welcomed by OBCs, minorities, and SC/STs, it was slammed by the dominant Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities as "unscientific".

It was placed in the Cabinet but was later junked in June 2025, ostensibly because it was 10 years old. As a result, the Madhusudan Naik Commission was asked to conduct another survey. The figures from the Madhusudan Naik Commission's report may bolster the arguments in favour of the Kantharaj survey and the Jayaprakash Hegde report.

Government of Karnataka
Office of The Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Haveri
Email : eeprednhvr@gmail.com Tel. No: 08375-232454
This office letter No.7/EE/PREDn/HVR/PB-2/Tender/2026-27/1021 Dated : 25-05-2026.

E-Tender Notification

On 22-05-2026 through Karnataka Publi Procurement Portal Tender Notification has been issued for the following work Indent No. 19965/CALL-3 (3rd Call) Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **01-06-2026** (upto 4:00 PM) For further additional information, any changes & queries visit http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR/HVR/KSMCA/115/2026-27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Haveri**

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, BANGALORE - 560 064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No. RWF/S/P2/07/2026-27 Dated 27/05/2026

On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager invites Electronic Open Tender from OEM or their authorised agents for supply of the following item, on the Indian Railways e-portal www.ireps.gov.in.
Tender Number: P2265506, **Brief Item Description** : 100 KVA online Modular UPS with battery & Isolation transformer as per technical specification, **Quantity** : 2 Sets. **Tender Closing Date and Time** : 18/06/2026, 14:00 hrs.
Tender details can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in or www.ireps.gov.in. The tender documents and the corrigendum to the Tender if any, will be available on the portal only.
Principal Chief Materials Manager

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Assistant Conservator of Forests, Channagiri Sub Division, Channagiri.
No:ACF:Channagiri:Tender.C.R-01/26-27-3 Date: 20.05.2026

(Through e-Procurement Portal)
Tender is invited through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal from concerned, eligible contractors regarding "Raising of plantation and Maintenance of Plantation in limits of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhadravathi Division, Bhadravathi for the year 2026-27", in the limits of Bhadravathi Forest Division for the year 2026-27 fixing time up to 4.00 PM on 09.06.2026. For Tender conditions and further information this office can be contacted during office hours and details regarding the Tender can be obtained from the official website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Approximate amount of work: Rs. 872.79753 lakhs.
1. "Raising of plantation and Maintenance of Plantation in limits of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhadravathi Division, Bhadravathi for the year 2026-27"
*) Last date for Tender Submission: 09.06.2026, 16.00 Hrs.
*) Date of opening Technical Bid: 10.06.2026, 16.30 Hrs.
*) Date of opening Financial Bid: 10.06.2026, 17.00 Hrs.
Sd/- **Assistant Conservator of Forests, Channagiri Sub Division, Channagiri**
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/127/05/297

POWER COMPANY OF KARNATAKA LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking) (CIN: U40101KA2007SGC043640)
4th Floor, INDHANA BHAVANA, Race Course Road Bengaluru - 560009.
No. PCKL/A12/33/2025-26/V-1/1259 DATE:26.05.2026

TENDER NOTICE
Request for selection (RfS) for procurement of 500 MW Power from existing Bagasse based Co-generation power plants within the State of Karnataka for a period of 10 years
Power Company of Karnataka Limited (PCKL), Government of Karnataka undertaking, invites competitive Bids through bharat electronic portal for procurement of 500 MW Power from existing Bagasse based Co-generation power plants within the State Karnataka for a period of 10 years.
The existing Co-generation units in Karnataka may access Tender document from the website ISN-ETS portal **https://www.bharatelecronictender.com** from **01.06.2026 -11 am** onwards.
For further details contact - **Director (Commercial),** Indhana Bhavan, 4th Floor, KPTCL Building, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Contact Number - **9448090774**
Email ID - **director.com2024@gmail.com**
Sd/- Director (Commercial) PCKL

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.
No.:KREIS/EDN/TRNG/2/2026-EDU-320470 Date:27.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)
The Tenders have been invited for **Supply of Mathematics Lab Items for 6th and 7th Standard Students** of Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society in Mysore Division from eligible agencies vide - **KREIS/2026-27/IND0096** through e-Portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on 27.05.2026. **The last date for receipt of tenders is 11.06.2026** and the details may be viewed at the above website.
Sd/- Executive Director KREIS, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/YC/862/2026-27

Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Shivamogga
Sagar Road, Shivamogga – 577204, Office P
h. No.: 08182-250338, AEE, Office Ph. No.: 08182-250173

Brief Tender Notice (Through KPP Portal Of GoK)
Tender is invited through KPP Portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act and Standard Tender Document KW-4.
1. No.: AMD/APMC/S/DW/279/2026-27 Date: 20.05.2026
Indent No.: APMC/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT960
Work of remaining Sheet shops and installation of lift on top portion of C block commercial complex which is adjoining Sagar Road of Main Market Yard and installation of 250 Kv electricity Transformer under Annual Action Plan for the year 2025-26. Eligibility: Eligible, K.W.-4 civil contractors registered with PWD. Amount Rs. 212 lakhs + G.S.T. EMD Rs.3,18,000/-
2. No.: AMD/APMC/S/DW/280/2026-27 Date: 20.05.2026
Indent No.: APMC/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT957
Work of constructing Godown at the vacant site behind Sales Bhavan Building of Main Market Yard under Annual Action Plan for the year 2025-26. Eligibility: Eligible, K.W.-4 civil contractors registered with PWD. Amount Rs. 143 lakhs + G.S.T. EMD Rs. 2,15,000/-.
Last date for submission of filled Tender Bids in KPP Portal: 29.06.2026 up to 4.00 PM. Tender Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 03.06.2026, 11.00 AM at the office of the Secretary of the Committee. Date of opening Technical Bid: 30.06.2026 at 4.00 PM. After the approval of the Technical Bid, Financial Bid of the qualified contractors will be opened.
Regarding uploading of Tender contact KPP Portal Helpline 080-46010000 or 080-68948777. Further details can be obtained through website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or from the address of the above office during office hours. If there are any revisions, etc. in the Tender, they will be published only in KPP Portal. Separate newspaper notice will not be issued.
Sd/- Secretary (Class-1), APMC, Shivamogga **Sd/- Administrative Officer, APMC, Shivamogga**
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/121/05/289

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪರಿಷತ್ತು
ನಂ. 30, ಪ್ರಸನ್ನಕುಮಾರ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್, ವೈ. ರಾಮಚಂದ್ರ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಗಾಂಧಿನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 009
No.KSHEC/4/Karnatak Unnata Shikshana/2026/1591(a) Date : 26.05.2026
ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನಿಂದ **Design, printing & supply of "Karnataka Unnata Shikshana" Quarterly magazine, published by KSHEC** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು **KSHEC/2026-27/SE0009, E-Procurement Portal** ನಲ್ಲಿ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ
ಸಹಿ/-
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪರಿಷತ್ತು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
DIPR/CP/847/NR/2026-27

PANCHAYATHRAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Zilla Panchayath Tumkur, PRED Division, Tumkur.
No. : E.E./PRED/TMK/TND NO. - 05/2026-27 Date : 26-05-2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 05/2026-27 DATE: 26-05-2026
KPP Procurement Tender Notice (Two Cover System)
The Tender is inviting through KPP Procurement on behalf of Government of Karnataka by the **Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Tumkur, Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Scheme for the year 2025-26.**
Indent Number : 1) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22840/ Call-2, 2) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22063/Call-2.
as per KTTP Act 2000 The Tender Documents can be obtained from the KPP Procurement **Website and Submitt the details on Dated : 26-05-2026 to 02-06-2026 upto 5.30 p.m.** Further details can be obtained through Website at **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this Office during Office working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Tumkur.
DIPR/Ramanagar/19/Manipal/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು – 10.
(Ph. No: 0821-2979772 E-mail:-khsdrp.divmys@gmail.com)
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಕುಕ/ಇಂ.ವಿ./ಕಾ.ಅ/ಮೈ/ಸಇ–3/ಟೆಂಡರ್–06 & 26–2ನೇ ಕರೆ/ 2026–27 ದಿ: 25.05.2026
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಕೊಡಗು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಶನಿವಾರಸಂತೆ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಪಾಂಡವಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮಟ್ಟದ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳ ಅಗತ್ಯ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿ ಸಲಾದ ಮೂರನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.36.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.100.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಾಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ.
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 08.06.2026 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. **2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್): 09.06.2026 ರಂದು 16.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (Through KPPP) https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in ದಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. **ಸೂಚನೆ: 1)** ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ/ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. **2)** ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/DDMYS/231/KSMCA/172/2026-27

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE/Tr(PROJ)C/EE(O)/AEE2/2026-27/633-39 Date: 26.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Mode Only)
KPTCL invites bids against Bid Enquiry No. for the following works:
1) KPTCL/2026-27/SE2380 for Providing Manpower Services of Data Entry Operator and Office Attendant to Tr (Projects) Circle Office, RT Division Office Mangaluru, TAQC Division Office, Project Division Kavoor & Project Division Udupi Office on contract basis. (DEO:7 No's. and OA:2 No's.)
2) KPTCL/2026-27/SE2379 for Providing 3 No's. of Security guards to watch & ward duties at major works stores KPTCL, Kavoor in Mangaluru Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District on contract basis.
3) KPTCL/2026-27/TL/WORK_INDENT3641 for tree enumeration in forest land & providing boundary demarcation using wooden sticks along the Line corridor in the forest land to the length of 5.092km in respect to the work of construction of 110kV DC line on DC towers from existing 110/33/11kV Guruvayanakere sub-station to proposed 110/33/11kV substation at Kakkinje (Chibidre) for a distance of 21.405 kms in Belthangady Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District using modern survey technique.
The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the tendering process can be obtained by logging on to e-portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 29.05.2026 at 11:00Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of undersigned during office working hours.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele)., Transmission (Projects) Circle, KPTCL, Maroli, Mangaluru.

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd.
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Nagarabhivruddi Bhavan, No.22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indira Nagar 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru - 560038.
Ph: 080-25196124-129, Fax: 080-25196110
Email: info@kuidfc.com, Website: www.kuidfc.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕೆಯುಐಡಿಎಫ್‌ಸಿ/ಆಡಳಿತ/ನಭ/ಕರಾನಯೋಮಂ/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.05.2026

NOTIFICATION
K.U.I.D.F.C Nagarabhivruddi Bhavan, No.22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560038, invites proposals for renting of 1st floor measuring 585.50 Sqm, which is presently vacant for inspection.
The interested parties may submit their proposals in a sealed envelope to the above address on or before 29.06.2026, 5:00 pm.
The minimum rent expected is Rs.774.77 per square meter with a maintenance fee of Rs.43.04 per square meter. The separate charges for parking shall be applicable. The utility like, electricity, Water and Diesel for DG set charges shall be as per actual bills.
The vacant premises shall be let out to the tenant who shall quote the highest rate. For more information contact: 080-25196124 & 080-25196129.
Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Admn) KUIDFC, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/841/CCL/2026-27

Trinamool meltdown continues: MP quits party posts

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) continued its meltdown on Wednesday, only three weeks since the BJP trounced it in the West Bengal Assembly elections and ousted it from power.

So far, over 100 of the party's municipal councillors have resigned. On Wednesday, senior TMC parliamentarian Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar relinquished all organisational posts.

The TMC also continued to be targeted by police crackdowns that began soon after the change of regime.

Party MLA Dilip Mandal was arrested in Odisha's Puri in connection with a video where he was allegedly seen and heard threatening BJP workers and supporters.

Over 80 TMC leaders and workers have been arrested across the state over the past few days in connection with allegations of corruption and involvement in political violence.

Kakoli, who was among TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee's most-trusted aides, resigned from all posts within the party just a day after she and six newly elected TMC legislators attended a meeting convened by CM Suvendu Adhikari.

'Limited, not conclusive': SC on EC's citizenship checks

'Poll panel can coduct probe, but not final adjudication'

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday held that the Election Commission is empowered to undertake a limited inquiry into an individual's citizenship solely to determine eligibility for inclusion in the electoral roll. However, such a determination cannot be treated as conclusive on the question of citizenship.

Referring to Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, the top court highlighted that citizenship is a condition precedent for enrolment as a voter.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi clarified that the EC's power stems from its constitutional mandate to maintain accurate electoral rolls and ensure only eligible citizens are enrolled as voters.

In its judgment upholding the validity of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar, the bench said, "The commission is empowered, in the exercise of its constitutional mandate, to undertake a limited enquiry into citizenship for the purpose of satisfying itself as to eligibility for inclusion in the electoral roll."

The SC, however, made it clear that the inquiry is strictly confined to electoral purposes and does not amount to a formal adjudication of citizenship.

"Such an enquiry does not amount to a determination of citizenship in the strict sense," the court observed.

It added that any action taken by the EC affects only the person's entitlement to be included in the electoral roll and their right to vote.

"It does not operate to divest the individual of claims of citizenship, nor does it foreclose a determination of that question by the competent authority under the Citizenship Act," the bench said.

In order to prevent any overreach, the court directed that wherever the EC is not satisfied about a person's citizenship for electoral roll purposes, it must refer the matter to the competent authority under the Union government for adjudication in accordance with law.

The commission's finding, the court said, cannot assume finality on citizenship.

2003 Bihar list

In a specific direction, the court ordered the EC to forward within four weeks all cases of persons deleted from the 2003 Bihar electoral rolls on grounds of doubtful citizenship to the competent authority under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

The authority has been asked to decide these cases after giving notice and opportunity of hearing, preferably before the next parliamentary, Assembly or local body elections.

The court further directed that the names of those established as citizens must be restored to the electoral rolls.

While the power to finally determine citizenship lies with the authority under the Citizenship Act, the poll panel can examine the issue from the limited standpoint of electoral roll preparation and revision. The court observed that the EC's determination is prima facie and contextual, and remains subject to judicial review.

ROLLS & RIGHTS

- Court underscores citizenship as prerequisite for enrolment
- Bench validates Bihar's Special Intensive Revision exercise
- Doubtful citizenship cases must go to competent authority under Union govt
- EC's determinations remain prima facie and open to judicial scrutiny

SIR verdict raises more questions than it answers: Congress

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Congress on Wednesday said the Supreme Court judgement on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls raised more questions than it answered.

Meanwhile, Yogendra Yadav — one of the petitioners — claimed that the outcome was a "forgone conclusion", and alleged that the ruling BJP would decide "who can vote and who cannot".

Senior Congress MP and lawyer Abhishek Singhvi, while talking to reporters, referred to the Supreme Court's observation that the EC could not decide on citizenship, and that it could be done only by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"That finding means that the final decision on citizenship will still be made later and wherever there is doubt regarding citizenship, the EC must refer the matter to the MHA," he said.

"But look at the irony. Before this final determination, the EC has already excluded people based on citizenship, while the actual decision will only be made later by another authority. Is this not a contradiction? Should this not have been noticed and commented upon by the Supreme Court?" he asked.

He said that the SIR timeline was "excessively compressed", referring to a process involving crores of voters within four to five months in states like Bihar and West Bengal.

"Another contradiction is that people are first removed from the voter list, and only later comes the adjudication of whether that removal was justified. By the time appeals are heard and decisions are made, elections may already be over. That is a major deprivation, and deserved a much stronger comment from the Supreme Court," he said.

Senior lawyer Prashant Bhushan said, "By the SIR judgement, the SC virtually gives a blank cheque to a totally partisan EC to do what it wants with electoral rolls without any transparency. It portends ill for our democracy."

GYANESH KUMAR
Chief Election Commissioner

"The first step for nation-building is voting. Therefore, every citizen of India who has completed 18 years of age should become an elector and should always vote... The Election Commission is, was, and will always be with the voters.

No shortage, only arbitrage: Centre on fuel supplies

Warns against industrial diversion of petroleum items

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Wednesday said that the country has "more than adequate" stocks of petrol and diesel to meet all domestic demand, stressing there is no supply shortage despite localised tightness at some retail outlets.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said India's refining sector — the world's fourth-largest with an annual capacity of 258.1 million tonnes across 22 refineries — produced enough fuel to cover domestic consumption of 243.2 million tonnes in FY26 while exporting 61.5 million tonnes of petroleum products.

"Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has been in continuous coordination with public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), state governments and industry bodies to ensure uninterrupted supply," the ministry said in a statement.

A high-level review involving chief secretaries of states and UTs, along with industry associations FICCI and CII, confirmed "no scarcity of petroleum products" on the ground. Any apparent shortages in certain pockets are due to "arbitrage" rather than actual supply constraints, it added.

The government noted that state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) are currently absorbing losses of around Rs 550 crore per day on petrol, diesel, and domestic LPG to protect retail consumers from the full impact of volatile international prices, particularly amid tensions in West Asia linked to the Iran war.

"This subsidy buffer is intended for households, commuters and farmers using retail pumps," the statement emphasised.

However, it warned that some industrial buyers are diverting purchases from bulk supply channels to retail outlets to exploit the lower subsidised prices, distorting availability and creating artificial pressure at fuel stations.

HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW

- Govt insists on adequate petrol, diesel supplies
- High-level review finds no scarcity; FICCI, CII confirm ground situation
- Arbitrage distorts availability; industrial buyers shift to retail pumps
- States asked to curb hoarding; citizens urged to avoid rumours

People gather around a water tanker to fill their empty containers amid scorching summer heat, in New Delhi, on Wednesday. Delhi sweltered under heatwave-like conditions as mercury crossed 45°C in parts of city. PTI

North, central India reel under severe heat

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid an intense heatwave in central and northwest India and delayed monsoon arrival, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asked people to take precautions and care for the vulnerable, besides helping animals and birds affected by soaring temperatures.

Heatwave to severe heat wave conditions are likely to continue over central and northwest India in next two to three days, with Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan baking at 48.2 degrees Celsius and Banda in Uttar Pradesh recording a temperature of 47.4° C.

A short relief for northwest India may be expected by Thursday due to a Western Disturbance that is likely to trigger thunderstorm, squalls, rains and dusty winds in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh between May 28-30 following which the temperature will again rise by 4-6 degrees Celsius by June 2, says the India Meteorological Department.

The southwest monsoon, which was expected to reach the Kerala coast on May 26, is delayed, with the IMD on Wednesday saying that conditions are favourable for the monsoon's advancement in more parts of the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal in the next 2-3 days.

PM urges caution

The PM warned of the dangers of "extreme heat" noting that "this heat is harsh on all of us" and asked people to take as many precautions as possible.

In a series of social media posts, Modi said children, the elderly and those working outdoors would be especially vulnerable to extreme heat, and no one should ignore the warning signs of heat exhaustion as it can quickly turn dangerous and may even lead to heatstroke.

Modi urged everyone to stay hydrated, carry water whenever stepping out and also offer a glass of water to others, as such kindness goes a long way in such weather.

Two of the five meteorological stations in the national capital recorded more than 45° C, while Delhi's base station at Safdarjung registered 44.3° Celsius.

A senior UN official flagged the severe human and economic impact of the heatwave, particularly on people living in homes without cooling facilities and those working long hours outdoors. "These extremes drive home the importance of measures to adapt to climate impacts, globally," Simon Stiell, the executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, said.

Govt sanctions over 60% manpower boost for ED

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Union government on Wednesday sanctioned a significant manpower boost for the Enforcement Directorate (ED), authorising more than 1,200 additional investigators and staff for the anti-money laundering agency.

Officials told PTI that the Ministry of Finance had approved the much-awaited cadre restructuring of the agency after 15 years, enhancing its workforce by more than 60 per cent -- from 2,029 to 3,256.

The ministry revised the ED's strength by 1,227 personnel across its six cadres, which include the executive, legal, and adjudication verticals that form the core of its investigation setup.

Of this total, 803 additional officials have been added to the rank of Assistant Enforcement Officer, 606 to Enforcement Officer, and 531 to Assistant Director of Enforcement.

The last cadre restructuring of the ED, undertaken to reorient an organisation to meet new and upcoming challenges, occurred in 2011.

Data suggests that the number of ED cases, including cybercrimes, AI and cryptocurrency, and enforcement actions are gradually increasing over years.

AIADMK rift ends as Velumani camp reunites with EPS

CHENNAI, PTI

After remaining divided for about a fortnight, the AIADMK factions patched up on Wednesday, with the rebel camp claiming that there was never a split in the party but only "difference of opinion" that saw some MLAs led by the Shanmugam-Velumani duo defying party chief Edappadi K Palaniswami and side with the TVK government during the confidence vote.

The rebel MLAs led by former state minister S P Velumani called on party chief Palaniswami at his residence here and expressed their support for the AIADMK general secretary, a party source said. However, C Ve Shanmugam was conspicuous by his absence, but Velumani claimed he was with them.

Shortly after calling on Palaniswami, Velumani met Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker J C D Prabhakar.

Speaking to reporters, Velumani denied having engineered a split in the AIADMK. Also, he refuted a charge by Palaniswami supporters that his group voted in favour of the TVK government during its May 13 floor test, aspiring for high positions in the government.

Earlier, about 13 legislators, including senior leader K C Veeramani, accompanied Velumani.

Shanmugam, who was conspicuous by his absence, had along with Velumani and other legislators, demanded that the party support the TVK government.

However, Velumani said Shanmugam was also with them. "We came from Shanmugam's office (before meeting Palaniswami). So, we are all united," he said.

Shortly after meeting the AIADMK chief, Velumani, accompanied by former minister Dr C Vijayabaskar, legislators supporting him, and senior leaders, including Agri S S Krishnamurthy from the Palaniswami camp, called on Speaker Prabhakar and submitted a letter stating that they would function as one party in the Assembly.

Vijayabaskar withdrew his earlier letter requesting the Speaker to recognise him as party whip.

The Speaker said he would announce his decision on Thursday regarding the letter submitted by the AIADMK members.

"Today, Agri SS Krishnamurthy and others (MLAs) who petitioned the Speaker and 22 MLAs (from the rebel camp) who submitted a similar petition seeking to disqualify the legislators (on either sides) under the anti-defection law, withdrew both our petitions," Velumani added.

SC notice to Centre, CBSE on plea against 3rd language

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought responses from the Central government, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the decision to make the study of a third language compulsory for Class 9 students from the 2026-27 academic session.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre, to submit a report on the logistical preparedness for implementing the new rule.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing in a connected matter, argued that the issue involved significant constitutional questions. He pointed out that textbooks for the third language were not even available yet.

Sibal contended that the move amounted to an imposition, and described it as a "federal issue", asserting that language should remain a matter of choice rather than compulsion.

No interim order

The petitioners' counsel urged the bench to direct the CBSE not to implement the decision from July 1, the start of the new academic year. However, the court declined to pass any interim order. "We will see," the CJI remarked.

The bench posted the matter for further hearing in the second week of July.

The PIL had been filed by a group of 19 petitioners — including parents and teachers from Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, and Chennai — against the Union of India, the CBSE, and the NCERT.

The petition challenged the CBSE circular that made it mandatory for Class 9 students to study three languages — R1, R2, and R3 — from July 1, with at least two of them being native Indian languages.

'Massive tampering': Rahul seeks probe into CBSE digital marking row

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi meets NEET aspirants on Wednesday. PTI

Top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday questioned the CBSE decision to engage a company for "On Screen Marking" (OSM) of answer sheets despite its dismal record in Telangana earlier, and demanded a judicial inquiry and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe to bring out the culprits behind what he said had created a mess of CBSE results.

He claimed there had been "massive tampering" in CBSE exam results, leaving millions of children and parents across the country in shock, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "as always", had "no answers, no accountability and no shame". CBSE rejected the allegations, but Rahul said "a denial is not an answer".

Posting a video on X, he said no one would be able to steal the hard work and future of "Gen Z friends", adding that he was committed to "digging the root of this conspiracy and uprooting corruption once and for all".

His comments came as a large number of students, who received lower-than-expected marks, discovered that their papers had not been properly scanned and that marks had not been entered correctly.

Rahul said the company Coempt Edutech, which was given responsibility for OSM, had already "pulled off the same stunt" in Telangana in 2019 under the name Globarena, with similar complaints raised at the time. "The name has been changed — but the intent is the same, the nature is the same. Everyone knew the history, yet the contract was still awarded... This is not a mistake, it is a deliberate conspiracy," he said.

CBSE said it "rejects" the allegations regarding the award of contract to Coempt Edutech, claiming it is "erroneous, misleading and not based on facts". It said it has followed the General Financial Rules protocols scrupulously in the awarding of the contract to the agency.

Rahul hit back, saying "a denial is not an answer" and asked why the Education Minister and CBSE are unable to answer the simple questions he has asked. "The future of 18.5 lakh students has been put in jeopardy. They deserve the truth," he said.

DIGITAL LAPSE

Flagged flaws in CBSE site to govt, got no response: Ethical hacker

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The ethical hacker who pointed out several vulnerabilities in the website used for the On-Screen Marking (OSM) of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class 12 answer sheets has said he received no response from the government despite highlighting the issues several times since he first discovered them in February.

The CBSE, in response, denied any hacking. IIT Madras — tasked with examining flaws in the process — did not rule it out.

The 19-year-old ethical hacker, Nisarga Adhikary, told *DH* that in February, he found "several critical vulnerabilities" in the OSM portal, which could lead to someone taking over the account completely, tampering with the grading process, and thereby, threatening the integrity of the exam evaluations.

"I wrote to the (education) ministry, the CBSE as well as CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) and followed up with them several times, but all I got was a 'thank you' in response," Nisarga said.

The main flaw he found was the master-key password vulnerability, which means that a master ID and password are written into the site's code, and anyone looking at it would be able to break into the site.

"The masterkey-password is accepted into any examination account, which will generate an OTP, which can easily be bypassed. One can also click on the 'forgot password' option and generate new credentials," Nisarga explained.

"Ideally, the government should have responded, accepted their mistakes, and rectified them as the fates of over 22 lakh students are on the line, but its silence is deafening," he added.

On Tuesday night, the CBSE denied Nisarga's allegations on X, claiming the website he mentioned was incorrect, and that the portal had "neither been compromised nor does it have the vulnerabilities indicated".

"There are no actual evaluation data, marks, or other data held on that portal. The Board emphasises that no security breaches have come to light on the portal deployed for the actual evaluation work," it said.

In Chandigarh, speaking to reporters, CBSE Regional Head Rajesh Kumar Gupta also denied any such possibility. "Regarding questions about the website being hacked, I completely deny it. I am rejecting this allegation outright. Because exams are being conducted offline, so, there are no questions of websites being hacked," he said.

While several students have complained of mismatched answer sheets or wrong marking, the payment of revaluation fees has also run into trouble, with Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan meeting four public-sector banks on Tuesday.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

In West Bengal, a few early fractures

West Bengal's new Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, led by Suvendu Adhikari, has started with a series of contentious administrative decisions. It has renamed or repackaged some of the welfare schemes launched by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government and introduced central schemes that the previous government had kept at bay. It has also resumed the stalled national census exercise. Governments reversing and revising the decisions of outgoing administrations is not unusual practice. But the divisive tones in some of the other moves are striking. The new government has directed district authorities to set up "holding centres" for apprehended foreign nationals and released foreign prisoners. It argues that the move aligns with its promise to identify and deport illegal Bangladeshi immigrants. Some of these centres have started functioning.

Some of the new government's actions undermine due process and signal majoritarian assertion

Adhikari said Bangladeshi immigrants detained in the state would be handed directly to the Border Security Force (BSF) for deportation, instead of being produced before courts. This is considered adherence to the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, which imposes penalties on illegal immigrants and other offenders. However, handing over suspected immigrants to the BSF without following due process raises legal and humanitarian concerns. Assam Police has deported *bona fide* citizens to Bangladesh in a similar fashion. Stripped of the officialese of "deportation," the process involves pushing people across the border. Notably, Bangladeshi authorities have also pushed many of these people back into India. Such arbitrary actions may find endorsement among some sections, but they go against the basic principles of law and humanity. There seems to be a contest among BJP chief ministers, especially the converted ones like Adhikari and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, regarding anti-Muslim actions and rhetoric.

The government has stopped all welfare assistance based on religious classification and allowances managed by the Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department. It has mandated the rendition of *Vande Mataram* during morning assemblies at madrasas. No one should be forced into acts that are against their religious beliefs. The government should not act like unruly elements imposing religious symbolism and practices on other communities. Celebrations following the BJP's electoral win saw some meat shops in the New Market area of Kolkata being razed down. On May 15, the Calcutta High Court stayed the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC)'s bulldozer action on allegedly illegal structures in the city's Muslim-majority Topsia neighbourhood. From Adhikari's words, before and after his party's historic mandate in the state, what is seen now may only be the beginning.

Solar metro makes a compelling case

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc)'s proposal that the upcoming 55-km Namma Metro Blue Line can operate on a net-zero solar energy model deserves consideration. The Blue Line, connecting Central Silk Board (CSB) with Kempegowda International Airport, is expected to consume nearly 152 Gigawatt-hours of electricity annually to run 21 trains at two-minute frequencies. An IISc study finds that the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) already possesses sufficient built infrastructure – station rooftops, depots, canopies, and viaducts – to meet that requirement through solar power, without acquiring a single additional acre of land. It is estimated that the first phase would require an investment of Rs 48 crore to Rs 63 crore, which could be recovered in under two years through electricity savings. A full-scale deployment could reduce nearly 78,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually, equivalent to taking around 19,000 petrol cars off Bengaluru's roads. In an era where infrastructure agencies constantly cite financial stress, solar energy could transform from an environmental aspiration into an undeniable fiscal imperative.

Regulatory and operational barriers are real, but the model promises major fiscal and environmental gains

BMRCL officials have acknowledged the blueprint's technical viability. However, the agency has also pointed to practical constraints. Current net-metering regulations limit how excess solar energy can be fed back into the grid. Running trains entirely on real-time solar power presents balancing challenges because peak solar generation occurs during midday, while metro demand surges during morning and evening hours. BMRCL, therefore, considers round-the-clock solar-only operations unrealistic. Moreover, engineers face genuine operational challenges that cannot be ignored. The Blue Line is already at an advanced stage of construction, with critical electrical systems and substations being installed. Retrofitting solar traction infrastructure midstream is far more difficult than integrating it at the Detailed Project Report stage. In the dense tech corridor between CSB and KR Pura, several stations also lack the physical footprint required to accommodate large transformers, inverters, and switchgear. These concerns are valid, but they are regulatory and administrative obstacles rather than technological impossibilities.

India is blessed with abundant sunshine. Failing to harness its solar energy at scale is irrational. It is a contradiction that public infrastructure depends overwhelmingly on coal-powered electricity while vast rooftop and viaduct spaces lie unused. If Bengaluru successfully executes this model, the Blue Line could become India's template for sustainable mass transit. The question is not about the feasibility – the IISc study has answered that. The real question is whether policymakers possess the will to dismantle the bureaucratic barriers standing in the way.

RULE ABOVE HABIT

The discipline of judicial disagreement

In an expanded Supreme Court, bench discipline and codified referral procedures become all the more critical

V VENKATESAN

In his 1928 Columbia University lectures, Charles Evans Hughes, later 11th Chief Justice of the United States (1930-1941), called a dissent in a court of last resort "an appeal to the brooding spirit of the law, to the intelligence of a future day." Dissent is institutional health: conviction within a single ruling, by a judge sitting with the majority she opposes. Justice Rohinton Nariman's Discordant Notes (2021) traces its lineage.

Polyvocality is a different animal: disagreement between benches, not within one. Two coordinate panels rule differently on the same question, neither aware of the other. Nick Robinson's *Structure Matters* (American Journal of Comparative Law, 2013) and his earlier EPW study (2011) of Constitution Benches from 1950 to 2009 anatomise it. It is the price of coordination failure, not of conviction.

With the strength of the Supreme Court rising from 34 to 38 judges, the distinction becomes urgent. More benches mean more occasions on which the same question lands before different judges. Whether the Court speaks coherently to itself depends on bench discipline, a doctrine separate from dissent.

Bench discipline holds that a smaller or coordinate bench cannot dilute the ratio of an earlier larger or coordinate bench. A judge who believes an earlier ruling is wrong must refer the question to the Chief Justice. The *locus classicus* is Chief Justice P B Gajendragadkar in *Lala Shri Bhagwan v. Ram Chand* (1965): "considerations of judicial propriety and decorum" require the judge inclined to differ to place the papers before the Chief Justice. The doctrine keeps a polyvocal court from becoming cacophonous.

On September 1 last year, Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan did exactly that. In *Anjuman Ishaat-e-Taleem Trust v. State of Maharashtra*, considering whether the Right to Education Act, 2009, applies to minority institutions, they were "distressed" by the "fragmentation of the common schooling vision" wrought by the five-judge Constitution Bench in *Pramati Educational and Cultural Trust v. Union of India* (2014), which had held the Act did not apply. They doubted *Pramati* but did not decide against it. Citing *Bhagwan v. Ram Chand*, they framed four questions and referred them to the then Chief Justice B R Gavai.

Discipline is tested harder when coordinate benches disagree. On May 18, Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan, in *Syed Iftikhar Andrabi v. National Investigation Agency*, granted bail in a UAPA matter and recorded "serious reservations" about a coordinate bench's ruling in *Gulfisha Fatima v. State*, accusing it of "hollowing out" the three-judge *Union of India v. K A Najeeb*. Yet they restated the rule: disagreement must travel to the Chief Justice.

Four days later, on May 22, in *Tasleem Ahmed v. State Govt. of NCT of Delhi*, Justices Aravind Kumar and Prasanna B Varale were asked to take a side in the *Gulfisha/Andrabi* dispute. They refused. "Judgments of this Court are not to be answered by counter-observations from another Bench of equal strength," they observed; "a Bench of equal strength cannot achieve, by language of reservation, what it cannot achieve by declaration of law." Granting interim bail, they referred the conflict to Chief Justice Surya Kant.

It will be said the referral was unnecessary – that *Andrabi* was itself discipline at work, a smaller bench aligning with binding three-judge *Najeeb* against another that had drifted. The objection conflates substance with structure. Whichever bench read *Najeeb* better, two emphatic coordinate formulations were in the field. Discipline forbids leaving doubts of fundamental character to compete at coordinate strength.

A deeper objection runs the other way. The Court's unpredictability is sometimes said to be part of its legitimacy: litigants who believe they have a chance against the odds repose confidence in a court not captured by a stable jurisprudence. The argument conflates two kinds of unpredictability. One is volatility in outcome across cases as panels and sensibilities shift; bench discipline does not touch it. The other is incoherence in the law, where two coordinate benches contradict each other on the same question, and the high courts must choose between them. That is institutional failure dressed as pluralism. Codified referral cures the second without disturbing the first.

A harder test of the doctrine

The 38-judge Court raises the stakes. More benches mean more occasions on which a coordinate bench encounters precedents it doubts. Discipline will sometimes hold, as in *Anjuman* and *Tasleem Ahmed*; it will sometimes fail through "distinguishing" or silent omission. "A doubt expressed in emphatic terms is still a doubt," the *Tasleem Ahmed* bench warned; "it is not a declaration of law."

Nor are Constitution benches insurance. In *Rojer Mathew v. South Indian Bank* (2019), a five-judge bench doubted *K S Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2018) on Article 110(1) and referred to a seven-judge bench. The reference awaits decision, seven years on.

Four more judges will not make the Court speak more coherently. Discipline does, and discipline is habit, not headcount. The expanded Court must show two things: from coordinate benches, humility to refer when they doubt; from the Chief Justice, alacrity to constitute larger benches when references arrive. Otherwise, references pile up, as the seven-judge Money Bill reference has done for seven years, the nine-judge Sabarimala reference for almost eight.

Germany has solved this by procedure. Its Federal Constitutional Court sits in two senates of eight justices each. When one senate wishes to depart from the other's reading, the case *must* go to the plenary of all 16. The compulsion is codified; the convocation is rare because the rule is clear. India's *Bhagwan* doctrine lives on habit, evaded by "distinguishing" and the master of the roster's discretion. A plenary-style rule – mandatory referral on recorded coordinate-bench conflict, time-bound constitution of the larger bench – would convert *Bhagwan*'s propriety into procedure. *Tasleem Ahmed* shows the doctrine working as habit; codification would ensure it works without it.

(The writer is a senior journalist based in the National Capital Region)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Rescued by Gandhi in a sea of salt

It was ironic and comforting that a rich country could also face a shortage of salt

USHA GAUTAM

In the mid-1990s I travelled to Canada for the first time. In addition to warm clothing, I packed a starter kit for an Indian kitchen. Given the baggage allowance constraints, and since these are universal pantry staples, sugar and salt were excluded.

Following two initial weeks in the care of a wonderful American couple, a rental was arranged. Time to start my own kitchen fires burning. My first visit to the local Safeway was an eye-opening experience. Sprawled across an area the size of an American football field, the array of merchandise was mind-boggling. In India, my modest world of grocery retail boasted owner-operated *kirana* shops and friendly neighbourhood wet markets. Shopping was swift (often home-delivered) and simple. Here, I needed a category-coded shopping list and a navigation map if I were to even reach the right aisle.

Meandering through the massive store, I finally found myself in the baking, condiments and spices section. Without too much difficulty, I located a pack of Rogers fine granulated white sugar. Salt proved more elusive. The shelves carried a bewildering selection of choices – smoked salt, seasoning salt, pickling salt, Italian herb-flavoured salt, Himalayan pink salt, Hawaiian red salt, Celtic Sea salt, *fleur de sel*... Where was a simple pack of white table salt? Iodised or not. As a beginner home cook, my repertoire was limited. Gourmet ingredients were unknown and unaffordable. I could not be rescued by the Google search engine, which was still two years away from launch, or Wi-Fi-powered smartphones, which lay even further in the future. But how could I begin cooking without this humble, indispensable ingredient?

I finally selected a beautifully packaged 200 gm sprinkler pack of Celtic sea salt. It cost a fortune. I had no way of knowing how it would taste. But on one side of its curved cylindrical surface was printed an elegant black and white sketch and description that immediately drew my attention. The Dandi March. The familiar image of Mahatma Gandhi's purposeful stride and accompanying story of *satyagraha* gave comfort as I grappled with overchoice anxiety.

Recounting my adventures to our solicitous host, I happily discovered that my stress was not misplaced. Apparently, a worker's strike had disrupted the salt supply chain. This was not a case of an inexperienced immigrant learning the ropes of living abroad. There was a genuine scarcity of simple table salt. The idea that in this rich and developed country, people could face a shortage of something as ubiquitous as salt was both ironic and consoling. It somehow helped bridge the vast gap in geography and lifestyle that I was experiencing and made Canada feel more familiar, less foreign. Not that I had ever experienced a shortage of salt in India.

I remember holding on to the attractive paper tube container for many years afterwards. To salt away this droll memory.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A calculated retreat from the office?

Siddaramaiah's tenure as chief minister seems to be drawing to a close. Though he was initially reluctant, the Congress high command seems to have prevailed over his personal ambition and has asked him to step down. As a loyal party soldier, he is likely to comply. If such a transition takes place, Siddaramaiah could achieve two objectives. First, he would fulfil, albeit belatedly, his reported promise to D K Shivakumar to share the chief ministership midway through the term. Second, he may no longer feel bound by his earlier vow not to contest elections after his tenure. If his tenure is cut short, he may well contest the 2028 Assembly elections with renewed vigour. With considerable support both inside and outside the House, he could even return to the top post, this time without any precondition.
T V Pandarinath Naidu, Kudige

Flawed language policy

This refers to 'A poorly timed language mandate' (May 27). The abrupt introduction of a third language in CBSE Class 9, with the condition that two of the languages should be native languages, including Hindi and Sanskrit, is unwarranted and against the academic interests of students. As observed, this appears to be a ploy to impose Hindi on non-Hindi speaking students. The fear is that non-Hindi speaking students will be forced to learn Hindi or Sanskrit for want of any other option. Hindi-speaking students, meanwhile, can study only Sanskrit and not any other Indian language. Non-Hindi speaking states should unite in opposing this illogical language policy.
K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

Bengaluru's lost charm

Apropos 'Couple steals Rs 49.5 lakh and gold from visually challenged friend' (May 27), Bengaluru is fast turning into a fraud city, a far cry from its earlier image as the Garden City and pensioners' paradise. Shame on the couple for cheating a friend. Killing and theft have become the order of the day, while mutual trust is fast eroding. The couple must be given exemplary punishment, and the law enforcement agencies should focus more on crime prevention.
Margaret Rajan, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

In states where the BJP wants to manipulate elections, they are using SIR as a weapon. Therefore, while we respect the Supreme Court's views, SIR should not be allowed to become a tool that undermines the democratic process in India...

Manickam Tagore, Congress MP

Wherever there is an interest and power to do wrong, wrong will generally be done.
James Madison

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

A looming two-front threat

India must recalibrate its security doctrine and deterrence around an integrated Sino-Pak strategic challenge

KRITEE CHOPRA

When India struck terror sites inside Pakistan on the night of May 6-7, 2025, it announced a new era in its security doctrine. Operation Sindoor was swift, precise, and domestically resonant – the most ambitious cross-border military operation India had launched since 1971. One year on, the anniversary has been marked with commemorative videos, ministerial tributes, and a great deal of justified pride in India's indigenous defence capabilities. What the official narrative has been considerably slower to examine is the silent third party in that four-day conflict – China.

Pakistan did not fight Operation Sindoor alone. It fought with a Chinese-equipped and Chinese-assisted military. The J-10CE fighter jets, the HQ-9 air defence systems, the PL-15 beyond-visual-range missiles: these were not peripheral details. They were the operational backbone of Pakistan's response. When Indian Rafales flew into contested airspace, they were not just contesting Pakistani capability; they were, in effect, field-testing India's military posture against Chinese hardware and doctrine. That is a fact India has acknowledged obliquely and must now examine honestly.

The results were mixed, and the honest assessment demands nuance. India's opening strikes were effective. The precision-targeting of infrastructure linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba demonstrated real advances in indigenous strike capability – BrahMos cruise missiles, loitering munitions, tri-service coordination that analysts described as the sharpest India had demonstrated in any cross-border operation in decades. But the aerial phase was fiercely contested. Credible reports of Indian aircraft losses, disputed in their details but deeply significant in their volume, pointed to the potency of Chinese-origin systems in Pakistani hands. Switzerland's *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* noted that the reported downing of a Rafale by Chinese-made air defences raised uncomfortable questions about Western military technology in contested environments. Those questions are equally and urgently India must answer.

Beijing, for its part, watched closely and drew its own lessons. Chinese state media's sympathetic framing of the conflict was no accident. China's long-standing strategic interest in a Pakistan that can credibly check India is well-documented. The deepening of the China-Pakistan axis over the last decade, from CPEC to military training, arms transfers, and diplomatic coordination at the United Nations, means that any future India-Pakistan confrontation will carry a Chinese shadow. Operation Sindoor made that shadow visible in real time.

This is not an argument for despondency. India's military modernisation is real, its indigenous defence push is meaningful, and its strategic confidence demonstrated in the very decision to strike across the border marks a genuine shift in national doctrine. But strategic confidence without strategic clarity is insufficient. The core lesson from May 2025 that demands serious attention a year later is this – India cannot plan for Pakistan without simultaneously planning for China.

A call for introspection

The two-front problem is no longer theoretical. India's military leadership has said as much, and the events of May 2025 gave that concern concrete and deeply uncomfortable shape. Operation Sindoor validated the risk that any kinetic conflict with Pakistan could draw in Chinese proxies – equipment, intelligence, and diplomatic cover in ways that qualitatively alter the entire threat environment. India's response options, escalation calculus, and deterrence posture must be calibrated not against Pakistan alone, but against the Sino-Pak axis as a single, integrated strategic unit.

The good news is that India is not without options. The Quad framework, deepening defence cooperation with the United States, France, and Japan, and accelerated domestic production under Atmanirbhar Bharat all point in the right direction. India's military spending reached $92.1 billion in 2025. Procurement of counter-drone systems, air defence platforms, and advanced missiles is underway. The Indian Navy's disclosure that it was just minutes away from a maritime strike when Pakistan sought the ceasefire signals clearly that India's strategic reach now extends well beyond the land border.

But capability alone does not constitute strategy. What India needs – and what this anniversary season calls for – is an honest, sustained public debate about the China factor: how it will shape the next crisis, what it demands of our alliance architecture, and how we build credible deterrence against a two-front threat without provoking the very escalation we seek to avoid. That conversation about doctrine, alliances, and the true architecture of the threat, a full year after Sindoor, has barely begun.

Operation Sindoor has fundamentally changed India's security posture. The harder and more consequential question is whether it has also changed India's strategic thinking, not just about Pakistan, but about the larger, better-resourced power that arms, trains, equips, shields, and ultimately stands behind it.

(The writer is a research associate at the Centre for East Asian Studies, Christ University)

Hindi cinema struggles with the changing script of viewership

DATELINE Mumbai

MRITYUNJAY BOSE

The Hindi entertainment industry is passing through a difficult and uncertain phase. For decades, Bollywood was driven by superstar actors, festive film releases and packed cinema halls, complete with popcorn and *samosas*. In recent years, however, the industry has faced multiple challenges simultaneously: declining theatre footfalls after the Covid-19 pandemic, rising production costs, internal disputes, pressure from OTT platforms and changing audience preferences.

The situation has become more complicated due to global economic uncertainty and tensions in West Asia, which have affected overseas markets and investments linked to the entertainment business. Producers, distributors and theatre owners say audiences have become far more selective about the films they choose to watch in cinemas.

Although a few films such as *Dhurandhar* proved that audiences still enjoy strong theatrical experiences, many big-budget productions have struggled at the box office. Industry experts believe Hindi cinema is now going through a transition in which content and audience connection matter more than star power alone.

One of the biggest recent disputes has been centred on the *Don 3* project involving filmmaker-actor Farhan Akhtar, producer Ritesh Sidhwani and actor Ranveer Singh.

The Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE), representing 38 crafts and workers' associations, issued a non-cooperation directive against Ranveer Singh after receiving a complaint from the Indian Film and Television Directors' Association (IFTDA).

According to industry sources, producers informed FWICE that nearly Rs 45 crore had already been spent on pre-production. Reports suggested the actor's exit created uncertainty over schedules and financial planning, though no detailed public explanation has been offered.

FWICE office-bearers, including chief advisor Ashoke Pandit, said the issue had affected several stakeholders connected to the project. At the same time, the organisation said it was willing to hear Ranveer Singh's side and hold further discussions.

The controversy highlighted how disputes involving big-budget films can create financial pressure across the industry, affecting not only producers and actors but also technicians and workers dependent on film shoots.

Another major controversy has surrounded *Hera Pheri 3*. Actor Akshay Kumar's production house reportedly sent a legal notice to actor Paresh Rawal following his sudden exit from the film. Reports claimed that Paresh Rawal returned his signing amount along with interest, while director Priyadarshan maintained a cautious public stand on the dispute.

The *Hera Pheri* series remains one of Hindi cinema's most successful comedy franchises, featuring Paresh Rawal, Akshay Kumar, and Suniel Shetty. The disagreements surrounding the third instalment disappointed fans and raised concerns about instability within major film franchises.

Industry observers say such public disputes have become more common because social media discussions, fan reactions, and online speculation now influence films even before shooting is completed.

Film analysts say Bollywood is no longer competing only with other films; it is competing for attention in an increasingly crowded digital space. Entertainment is now available instantly and often free of cost.

During the Covid-19 lockdowns, streaming platforms expanded rapidly and offered viewers a wide range of Hindi, regional, and international content. Even after theatres reopened, many continued to prefer home viewing over spending heavily on cinema tickets, transport and food.

YouTube has added another layer of competition. The music business has also changed significantly. Earlier, film songs played a major role in promoting movies and attracting viewers to theatres. Today, independent music and viral online tracks often become popular without any connection to films.

All Indian Cine Workers Association president Suresh Shyamlal Gupta said many daily wage workers, technicians and junior artists lost employment during the Covid-19 crisis. According to Gupta, many were forced to seek alternative jobs as delivery staff, drivers, security guards, and street vendors after film projects stopped during lockdowns.

Industry bodies say several small and medium-sized production companies also shut down because of mounting losses. Gupta has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking support measures for workers and production units affected by economic difficulties. There are also concerns that prolonged global instability and weak investments could reduce the number of films, television projects, advertisements and web series being produced.

Film analysts say the Hindi entertainment industry is increasingly getting affected by political debates and ideological divisions. Veteran film analyst Navin Kumar said political discussions linked to films and celebrities have intensified in recent years, creating additional pressure on the industry. Social media campaigns, boycott calls and online controversies now influence audience perception even before a film is released.

At the same time, the financial risks linked to filmmaking have become much higher. Several films today are made with budgets ranging from Rs 150 crore to Rs 300 crore, but trade experts say only a limited number of films have emerged as clear commercial successes after the pandemic.

Despite the challenges, some have managed to perform strongly at the box office. Movies such as *Dhurandhar, Stree 2, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* and *Chhaava* generated strong public response and helped theatres recover business. However, several high-budget and star-driven projects have struggled commercially despite aggressive marketing campaigns, raising concerns about the long-term sustainability of expensive productions.

Industry observers believe the Hindi entertainment industry is now going through a correction phase. Producers are likely to focus more on controlled budgets, stronger scripts and audience-driven storytelling in the coming years. **DHNS**

In Nepal, a nation wedged between India and China, a unique time zone is just one expression of a singular national identity

HANNAH BEECH

Ghanta Ghar, or the Hour House, during its renovation in Kathmandu. Nepal keeps its own time zone, 5 hours and 45 minutes ahead of Coordinated Universal Time. NYT

Where the clocks are always 15 minutes apart from the world

Quick, if it's 8:40 p.m. in New York, what time is it in Kathmandu?

The answer is 6:25 in the morning on the next day, just when the capital of Nepal is coming alive: market women laying out fresh greens and chillies both slender and stout, Hindu and Buddhist holy men lighting incense and lamps of clarified butter, the smog smothering the sibilance of street sweepers and the toll of temple bells.

Nepal's unique national time zone—five hours and 45 minutes ahead of Coordinated Universal Time—is but one manifestation of how fiercely the country guards its singularity. Its flag, made up of twin triangles symbolizing the high Himalayas, is the only national pennant that is not a rectangle. Nepal boasts its own calendar, too. In Kathmandu, the year is now 2083—56 years, eight months and change ahead of the Gregorian calendar used in much of the rest of the world.

The pride that has birthed these distinct symbols of nationhood is rooted in Nepal's geography. Its mountains and valleys, peopled by dozens of ethnic groups, are squeezed between India and China. It borders other Himalayan lands, like Sikkim and Tibet, that were swallowed up by those larger nations. When imperial powers carved up Asia, Nepal, with its mountain-bred warriors, resisted.

"The Nepali people feel very proud of having been independent for centuries, not being colonized ever," said Jaya Raj Acharya, a retired diplomat who served as Nepal's ambassador to the United Nations. "This sense of national identity unites us, even though we are today speaking 123 languages in a country that is about the size of New York state."

Nepal Standard Time was officially designated in 1986, 15 minutes ahead of India's time zone, to which it had been tethered. This declaration of national exceptionalism, displayed at a Kathmandu clock tower first built in 1894, seems beloved by the populace, even if it forces Nepalis to engage in quick arithmetic when travelling or setting meetings outside the country.

Standing in front of the Kathmandu airport before his flight to South Korea to study global economics, Alan Thapa, 18, assured his family that he would call when he landed, then proceeded to subtract 3 hours and 15 minutes from his arrival time. "I'm studying economics," he said. "It is not a difficult calculation."

The longitude on which Nepal's time zone is set runs through Mount Gaurishankar, a Himalayan peak that can be seen from the outskirts of Kathmandu on the rare days without air pollution. There is a joke that Nepal Standard Time grants a 15-minute grace period to a perennially rushed populace. The punchline makes sense when stuck in Kathmandu's traffic jams, with their cacophony of cars, motorcycles, auto-rickshaws, cows and goats; their porters hefting impossible loads; their frequent celebratory processions of giant chariots trailed by demon-masked acrobats praying for rain or a good harvest.

For centuries before Westerners took it upon themselves to decide time—choosing the Greenwich Observatory in London as the prime meridian and other longitudes to represent the other hours of the day—Kathmandu residents would find out the official time by visiting a rectangular pool in the Hanuman Dhoka palace complex, the seat of the monarchy. There, as soon as a ray of sun broke over the Himalayan foothills surrounding the city, water was dripped into a series of bowls in specific increments of time, historians have said. People could then consult with an astrologer to determine the moment best suited for, say, a wedding or a child's naming ceremony.

Today, tourists tromp through the palace complex, emptied of ceremony since the constitutional monarchy was voted out in 2008. Shaggy dogs snooze in the shade of stone lions. A rusted Land Rover sits in one courtyard. In 1962, the then-king survived an assassination attempt in the vehicle. His son and successor, King Birendra, was not so lucky. In the waning days of the Shah dynasty in 2001, Crown Prince Dipendra massacred nine members of the royal family, the king and queen included, before ending his own life.

Some traditions were not tossed out with the monarchy.

The Bikram Sambat is Nepal's official calendar, based on Hindu precepts. Each year a government-authorised committee of astrologers and astronomers determines the exact time the next year is to start, dependent on the trajectories of the sun and the moon. Unlike the solar Gregorian calendar, with its set 12 months and quadrennial leap year, the Bikram Sambat shifts slightly, with the new year around mid-April. The number of days in each month depends on the year and can run up to 32.

Shree Krishna Adhikari, an expert in astronomy and astrology, led the seven-member committee for four years, retiring last July. Now 77, he presided over debates between orthodox and modernist committee members about how to decide the precise times of auspicious dates for prayer and celebration. The traditionalists, he said, clung to old mathematical ways, leading to erroneous calculations.

"We didn't have computers back then," he said. "We should trust math, science, the age of modern discovery."

Adhikari, however, bristled at the idea of switching to the Gregorian calendar.

"We cannot abandon the world that our ancestors created," he said. "This is what makes us Nepali."

Other calendars are in use in this diverse nation, including a Tibetan Buddhist one. Another is the calendar of the Newar people indigenous to the Kathmandu Valley, who adhere to both Hinduism and Buddhism. Since 2008, this calendar, too, has been given official status in Kathmandu. Most years in the Newar calendar have 12 months, some have 13 and a few have 11. In the Newar cosmology, it is now the year 1146.

There are apps to help Nepalis convert between calendars. And while the country's copious paperwork employs the Bikram Sambat, allowances are made for international norms. Nepali passports use the Gregorian calendar.

The importance of both lunar and solar traditions to Nepali timekeeping is echoed in the country's triangular flag, which is decorated with a moon and a sun.

Most days for the past 20 years, Laxmi Narayan Shilpakar has stood in Durbar Square in Kathmandu, holding a Nepali pennant taller than he is. Shilpakar, 70, said he started his flag-waving to promote reconciliation soon after the country's decade-long Maoist insurgency, which claimed nearly 18,000 lives.

"At the time, people were trying to divide Nepalis by saying, 'Are you a monarchist or a Hindu or Buddhist or whatever,'" he said. "I wanted to say, 'We are all Nepalis under the same flag.'"

Steps away from where Shilpakar wields the Nepali flag is the Hanuman Dhoka palace complex, the symbolic heart of the country.

Somewhere inside is the pool from which royal keepers of the clock carefully dispensed water into clay pots. Today, though, no one—not a guard nor a guide nor an amateur historian roaming the palace grounds—seems to know exactly where the ancient water clock kept measure. One pool in the palace has been cemented over. Another is murky with algae, the secrets of Nepal's chronometry lost to time itself.

The New York Times

When death speaks, the law must listen

S SUSHEELA

The death of a young woman under suspicious circumstances often leaves behind more questions than answers. Some call it suicide. Others suspect murder. Family members grieve. Society speculates. Amid this uncertainty, one fundamental question arises: What is the duty of the police? The answer lies not merely in statutory provisions but also in a consistent line of decisions of the Supreme Court of India. The duty of the State begins the moment information regarding an unnatural death reaches the police. It does not wait for a complaint.

Section 174 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (now Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023), creates a statutory obligation upon the police to act whenever information is received that a person has died by suicide or under suspicious circumstances; met with an accident; or has been killed. The provision begins with the words, "When the officer in charge receives information." The crucial factor is, therefore, the information itself, not a complaint. Upon receiving such information, the police are required to immediately inform the nearest executive magistrate, proceed to the place of occurrence, conduct an inquest, prepare an inquest report, and arrange for a post-mortem examination wherever required by law.

The Supreme Court in *Pedda Narayana v. State of Andhra Pradesh* (1975) explained the limited but important purpose of an inquest. The Court observed that the object of holding an inquest, as can be seen from Section 174, is to find whether a person died a natural death, a homicidal death or due to suicide. Thus it is very clear that an inquest is not a criminal trial or even a criminal investigation in the strict sense. It is the law's first response to death.

This distinction was reaffirmed by the Supreme Court in *Rhea Chakraborty v. State of Bihar* (2020) arising out of the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, emphasising that proceedings under Section 174 are distinct from an investigation into a cognisable offence. The former seeks to discover the apparent cause of death; the latter seeks to identify offenders and establish criminal liability.

However, this distinction does not warrant police inaction nor a hasty statement that death is due to suicide or murder. The moment material emerges indicating the commission of a cognisable offence such as murder, abetment of suicide, dowry death, or cruelty, the law takes a different course. In the landmark Constitution Bench decision of *Lalita Kumari v. Government of Uttar Pradesh* (2014), the Supreme Court held that registration of an FIR is mandatory whenever information discloses a cognisable offence. The police possess no discretion to postpone or avoid registration in such circumstances. Therefore, an unnatural death inquiry and a criminal investigation may begin as separate processes, but one can quickly transform into the other when evidence suggests criminality.

The importance of preserving the scene of occurrence becomes even more critical where competing versions of suicide and homicide emerge. Suppose a woman is found dead inside a room, and the body is shifted to a hospital before police intervention. Can the police wait for days before conducting a spot *mahazar*? Can persons who may later become accused continue to occupy and control the premises? The answer, both legally and logically, must be in the negative.

Criminal investigations must be done carefully, as they involve the rights of the accused and of the victims. The three-judge bench of the apex court in *Anukush Maruti Shinde v. State of Maharashtra* observed that all relevant facts and circumstances are to be brought to the notice of the Court so that due justice prevails.

Similarly, in *Bimla Devi v. Rajesh Singh*, the Court emphasised that proceedings under Section 174 CrPC are intended to preserve the first look. The police officer must investigate the place from where the dead body is recovered; anything and everything in and around the area may become crucial in determining whether a death is suicidal or homicidal.

Delay, passivity, and failure to preserve the scene as required strike at the very foundation of a fair and effective investigation. The law does not demand certainty before action. It demands vigilance. For when death speaks through circumstances, avoidance from the investigating machinery is not neutrality—it is a failure of duty.

(The writer is a senior advocate in the High Court of Karnataka and senior mediator)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976

Parliament seal on statute Bill to protect 64 laws

New Delhi, May 27
Parliament today approved the Constitution (40th Amendment) Bill which gives protection to 64 Central and State Acts from being challenged in courts on ground of being violative of fundamental rights with the Rajya Sabha passing it unanimously. The Bill also authorises Parliament to specify by law the limits of the country's territorial waters, the continental shelf, the exclusive economic zone and other maritime zones. Opposition amendments, including the one seeking deletion of the Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matter Act from the Bill, were lost.

25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001

Pak harps on role for Hurriyat

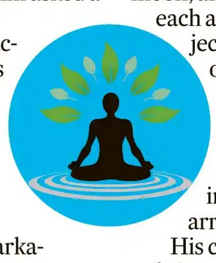
Islamabad, May 27 (PTI)
Even as it prepares its response to India's invitation to Gen Musharraf for talks, Pakistan today said refusal to allow Hurriyat Conference leaders to meet the military ruler during his visit to New Delhi would have "negative impact" on efforts to solve the Kashmir issue. Gen Musharraf, during his visit to India, planned to meet the executive council members of Hurriyat Conference and "any denial of their meeting with the Pakistan delegation will have negative impact on the efforts to solve the Kashmir issue," Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar was quoted by official news agency APP as saying.

OASIS | MOHAMMED TALHA SIDDI BAPA

Hajj and the courage to think

As millions of Muslims gather in Makkah this season—circling the Ka'bah and retracing the footsteps of *Hajar* between Safa and Marwa—the ancient story of Prophet Ibrahim comes alive again. Every major ritual of the Hajj pilgrimage bears his imprint, from sacrifice to submission, from faith to endurance. Yet beyond ritual remembrance lies another powerful legacy of Ibrahim: the courage to think independently.

Prophet Ibrahim—Abraham in Jewish and Christian traditions—occupies a rare place in human history. Revered by the world's three major monotheistic faiths, he is remembered not only as a patriarch of faith, but as a seeker of truth who challenged conformity with moral courage. Nearly 4,000 years ago, Ibrahim lived in a society shaped by inherited customs and unquestioned beliefs. Ibrahim asked a dangerous question: Why?



Why follow inherited practices without reflection? His questioning unsettled his society. But his search was not driven by rebellion for its own sake; it emerged from a sincere, rigorous pursuit of truth. In many ways, his journey feels remarkably modern.

Questioning inherited assumptions—whether social, political, or personal—often comes at a steep social cost. Ibrahim's life reminds us that thinking deeply is not an act of defiance; it is a moral responsibility.

Ibrahim observes the stars, the moon, and the sun, briefly considering each as a divine power before rejecting them as they set. While often read spiritually, this narrative also reflects a timeless process of inquiry: observation, reflection, testing, and conclusion. Ibrahim did not inherit conviction blindly; he arrived at it consciously.

His courage was tested not only in quiet contemplation, but in confronting absolute power. When challenging the tyrannical ruler of his time—often identified as Nimrod—Ibrahim responded not with matching hostility, but with calm reason. Faced with arrogance, he stood firm on logic. Equally striking was how Ibrahim handled disagreement at home.

Even while profoundly diverging from his father's beliefs, he addressed him with deep dignity and affection. This lesson is vital: it is entirely possible to challenge ideas without dehumanising people.

As pilgrims complete the Hajj this year, we must reflect on what exactly are we remembering? Certainly, sacrifice and obedience. But we must also remember the courage to think honestly, question fearlessly, and stand for truth even when standing alone. Never be afraid to follow where truth leads.

Five-year extension for SARTHAK-PDS scheme

Cabinet clears Rs 25,530-cr overhaul of public distribution system

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a five-year extension of the SARTHAK-PDS scheme with a Rs 25,530 crore outlay till March 2031.

The scheme seeks to modernise the public distribution system (PDS) through technology-led reforms for greater efficiency and reduced leakages.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, also approved revised norms for central assistance to states and Union Territories for intra-state movement and handling of foodgrains, along with higher margins for fair price shop (FPS) dealers, while retaining the existing funding pattern.

SARTHAK-PDS merges two programmes — assistance for intra-state foodgrain movement and FPS dealer margins under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), and the SMART-PDS modernisation scheme — into one unified framework aimed at strengthening last-mile delivery and curbing leakages.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the scheme covers the entire PDS value chain.

"Right from selection of beneficiaries to movement of foodgrains, to getting proactive feedback from citizens, to reducing transportation distance — all those activities have been approved," he told reporters.

Vaishnaw noted that states were struggling with transportation costs, which will now be supported under the scheme, along with enhanced remuneration for FPS dealers.

The scheme introduces three major AI-powered platforms: NIRMAL, an AI-driven beneficiary registry to remove duplicate and ghost beneficiaries; QR-coded grain bags for tamper-proof tracking; ASHA, a multilingual AI assistant for grievance redressal; and SAKSHAM, an AI supply-chain platform for GPS tracking, demand forecasting and route optimisation.

The government expects 15-50% reduction in logistics costs, annual savings of Rs 280 crore, and a 36% cut in carbon emissions through optimised shorter routes.

Vaishnaw clarified that SARTHAK-PDS does not replace the existing PDS architecture but brings structural reforms in foodgrain delivery, logistics, transportation, material handling and grievance redressal.

It combines assured financial support with a unified, citizen-centric digital ecosystem to ensure efficient last-mile delivery and minimise leakages.

The scheme will use AI, Machine Learning, NLP and Blockchain for real-time monitoring, unified databases.

Delhi-San Francisco AI flight returns after over 8 hrs in air

NEW DELHI, PTI: An Air India plane bound for San Francisco returned to New Delhi on Wednesday after developing a technical snag mid-flight, forcing the aircraft to turn back after spending more than eight hours in the air, according to the airline and flight-tracking data.

The aircraft, with around 230 passengers onboard, had been airborne for more than three hours and was flying through Chinese airspace before diverting back towards the national capital.

Flight AI173, operated by a Boeing 777-300ER carrying around 230 passengers, departed Delhi for San Francisco before returning to the Indian capital in line with standard safety procedures, Air India said in a statement.

"The aircraft landed safely and will undergo technical inspection in line with Air India's safety standards," the airline said. Sources said aircraft had to return due to an issue with the Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS).

TCAS alerts the pilots of an aircraft in case there are any other aircraft in the vicinity that are closer than the permissible separation limit.

Air India said it was arranging alternative flights for passengers and providing assistance, including refreshments, hotel accommodation and rescheduling options.

Govt cracks down on online sale of hazardous chemicals

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has initiated regulatory action against e-commerce platforms for the unauthorised listing, advertisement, and sale of hazardous chemicals and explosive substances, issuing notices to eight entities.

The regulator took the step after receiving inputs about regulated substances being openly listed and sold on major platforms, including IndiaMART, Justdial, Sigma-Aldrich India, Dial4Trade, and ExportersIndia.

The notices demand detailed information from the platforms, including seller identities and licensing compliance, buyer verification mechanisms, quantities sold, import details, and necessary regulatory approvals.

Among the flagged substances are ammonium nitrate, gun powder, picric acid, and pentaerythritol tetranitrate (PETN), all of which are strictly regulated, restricted, or prohibited under Indian laws related to public safety and hazardous materials.

"Unauthorised online access to such hazardous substances may expose consumers to serious safety risks and unlawful supply channels," the CCPA said in a statement.

During its preliminary probe, the authority found that several listings lacked required safeguards or verification processes, raising concerns over public safety.

The CCPA has directed online platforms and intermediaries to exercise due diligence and strictly comply with all legal and regulatory requirements before allowing the listing or sale of such sensitive items.

As part of a coordinated effort, the CCPA held a meeting with officials from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) to review the existing regulatory framework.

Govt health spending triples to Rs 3.85 lakh crore in last decade: Ministry

NEW DELHI, PTI: Government expenditure on healthcare has nearly tripled over the last decade to Rs 3.85 lakh crore in 2022-23, while out-of-pocket spending by households on treatment has declined significantly, according to the National Health Accounts (NHA) estimates released by the Union Health Ministry on Wednesday.

The report showed that government health expenditure increased from Rs 1.30 lakh crore in 2013-14 to Rs 3.85 lakh crore in 2022-23, stating higher public investment in the health sector.

The share of government health spending in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rose from 1.15% in 2013-14 to 1.43% in 2022-23. According to the new GDP series with base year 2022-23, the figure stands at 1.48%.

The ministry said the increase in public spending has contributed to a substantial decline in out-of-pocket expenditure incurred by households on healthcare.

According to the report, out-of-pocket expenditure as a share of total health expenditure fell from 64.2% in 2013-14 to 43.4% in 2022-23, indicating reduced financial burden on people seeking treatment.

The report also highlighted that the share of government health expenditure in total health expenditure increased from 28.6% in 2013-14 to 43.7% in 2022-23.

"In per capita terms, Government Health Expenditure increased nearly 2.7 times from Rs 1,042 in 2013-14 to Rs 2,786 in 2022-23," the ministry said in a statement.

The National Health Accounts estimates noted that government spending on healthcare saw a major rise during the Covid-19 pandemic period, with health expenditure reaching 1.84% of GDP in 2021-22 due to emergency response measures, implementation of Emergency Covid Response Packages (ECRP-I and II) and the nationwide vaccination programme.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

WHAT'S WITH THE OOMPAH BAND?
I HIRED THEM FOR THE BOSS FOR PRESIDENTS DAY
YOU'RE ONLY ENCOURAGING DITHERS TO THINK PRESIDENTS DAY IS ABOUT HIM!
I HAD NO CHOICE! HE ISSUED ME AN EXECUTIVE ORDER!
FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD PRESIDENT!

Hagar The Horrible

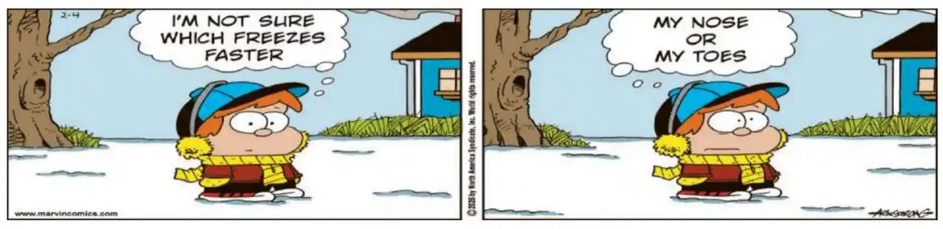
Beetle Bailey

THERE'S SO MUCH WASTE IN THE WORLD. WHERE ARE THEY GOING TO PUT IT ALL?
WE SURE DON'T HAVE ANY MORE ROOM IN HERE
GARBAGE
GREG + MORT WALKER

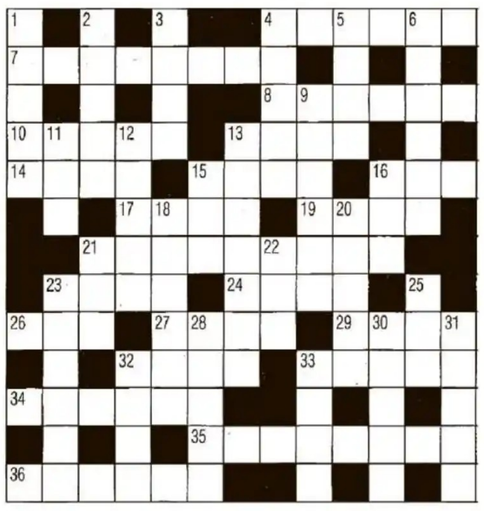
Peanuts

I THINK YOU SHOULD TRY TO GET OUT MORE
YOU CAN'T JUST SIT IN YOUR NEST ALL DAY LOOKING AT FOUR TWIGS
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE
I'D MAKE A TERRIBLE PSYCHOLOGIST... I ALWAYS LAUGH!

Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12426



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 They're jolly good fun chaps! (6)
7 See the money's ready (4,4)
8 Quadruple the score (6)
10 It's nothing for wild bees to be overweight (5)
13 It means a lot to a fellow on the fourth of July (4)
14 Rubbish may be shot here (4)
15 The present talent? (4)
16 Lady robbed of money, upset for a time (3)
17 Skip in from Italy (4)
19 The image a coin may show (4)
21 To him, we may sound agreeable (9)
23 Wild acts by spiteful women (4)
24 Helped, albeit heartlessly, when given attention (4)
26 Chuck seems a bit pushy (3)
27 Kill, say, about fifty (4)
29 A bird might see it as food (4)
32 Stick around Midway, a Pacific island (4)
33 Just the sort of necklace for a girl (5)
34 Soldiers can make sport out of love! (6)
35 Jumping over a rope (8)
36 A suggestion that we attend cinema releases? (4,2)

DOWN
1 Royal meeting in Nova Scotia (5)
2 Seems sad composing poems (5)
3 The longing teachers have at heart (4)
4 A corny group in the country field (5)
5 Some indoor gymnastics, Roman style? (4)
6 Painter in the red? (6)
9 Punctual, eventually? (2,4)
11 Sort of seat to fight for? (3)
12 Lacking money, possibly shy (5)
13 In the London area, you can get to the match by motorway (7)
15 Spirit of clarity (3)
16 Put on the river? (3)
18 For a cat to turn up with me, could spoil things (4,2)
20 No gentleman, at some stage, will beg (5)
21 She sounds a bit faint (3)
22 At the end of the day, he gives a cry (3)
23 Cost of a military action? (6)
25 The curate's dog? (3)
28 Using it, may a cowboy miss nothing? (5)
30 Quick raid capturing the pierhead (5)
31 He was a bit of a blighter to the crew (5)
32 Gallery deities? (4)
33 Dad's double (4)

ACROSS
4 Buff (6)
7 Throw this at weddings (8)
8 Freshwater mammals (6)
10 Water jugs (5)
13 Snooker rods (4)
14 Grain store (4)
15 Cod, for example (4)
16 Piercing tool (3)
17 Slimming plan (4)
19 Outer layer of bacon (4)
21 Help (4,1,4)
23 Entrance (4)
24 Hollow (4)
26 Man's best friend (3)
27 Finished (4)
29 Revise (4)
32 Prison (4)
33 Stadium (5)
34 Works dough (6)
35 Borrowing charge (8)
36 Firework type (6)

DOWN
1 Land measures (5)
2 Heavenly messenger (5)
3 Untidy state (4)
4 Godly (5)
5 Plenty (4)
6 Canny (6)
9 Iran's capital (6)
11 Hairpiece (3)
12 Cowboy display (5)
13 Fortified building (7)
15 Gave food to (3)
16 Along with (3)
18 Raid or incursion (6)
20 Bury (5)
21 Register, record (3)
22 That woman (3)
23 Responsibility of (4,2)
25 Rubbish receptacle (3)
28 Call on (5)
30 Discourage (5)
31 Flavour (5)
32 Court card (4)
33 Yes votes (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12425

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, String 7, Apple pie 8, Stop 10, Recede 11, Aspect 14, And 16, Had-ES 17, Ha-R-d 19, Woven 21, Pages 22, Legit 23, Prep 26, Sever 28, MA-e 29, Knight 30, Sal-ami 31, O-pal 32, Teaspoon 33, Greasy.
DOWN: 1, S-T-arch 2, Intend 3, Gape 4, B-L-ushes 5, Sp-I-ed 6, Debts 8, Scar 9, Od-d 12, Pan 13, C-E-ase 15, Log-ic 18, Alien 19, Wag 20, Vet 21, Per-h-aps 22, Le-g 23, Palace 24, Real 25, Pri-ssy 26, Skate 27, Vi-T-Al 28, Map 30, Song.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Calais 7, Estimate 8, Pate 10, Placid 11, Mutate 14, Sun 16, Total 17, Lass 19, Taper 21, Lotus 22, Woman 23, Cent 26, Lilac 28, Tax 29, Anorak 30, Lesion 31, Unit 32, Skeleton 33, Globes.
DOWN: 1, Chapel 2, Abacus 3, Seed 4, Dilutes 5, Carat 6, Rebel 8, Pass 9, Tin 12, Tor 13, Talon 15, Fatal 18, Again 19, Tom 20, Pun 21, Locates 22, War 23, Casino 24, Exit 25, Tennis 26, Lasso 27, Loner 28, Ten 30, Lung.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6917 ◆

8	2			1	4	9	5	
4		9		3				
			9				6	2
		2	1	6				9
			5		8			
6				9	2	7		
3	4				9			
				4		6		8
	8	1	3	2			9	4

easy

SOLUTION TO 6916

6	7	8	9	1	3	4	2	5
3	2	9	4	5	6	1	8	7
4	1	5	8	7	2	3	9	6
1	9	6	7	4	8	2	5	3
2	5	7	3	9	1	6	4	8
8	3	4	6	2	5	9	7	1
9	4	3	5	6	7	8	1	2
5	8	1	2	3	9	7	6	4
7	6	2	1	8	4	5	3	9

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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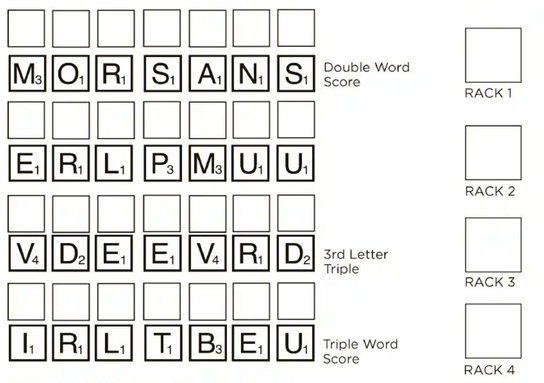
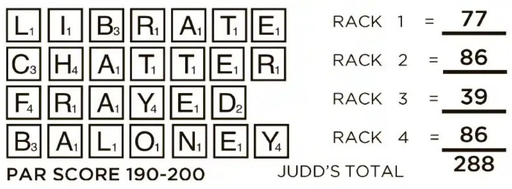

M3 O1 R1 S1 A1 N1 S1 Double Word Score
E1 R1 L1 P3 M3 U1 U1
V4 D2 E1 E1 V4 R1 D2 3rd Letter Triple
I1 R1 L1 T1 B3 E1 U1 Triple Word Score
RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 115-125
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



PAR SCORE 190-200 JUDD'S TOTAL

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

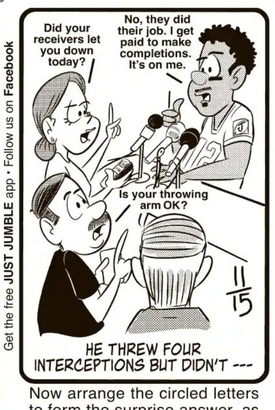
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TUCAE

NLKAP

SIANHB

PIRCTS


Did your receivers let you down today?
No, they did their job. I get paid to make completions. It's on me.
Is your throwing arm OK?
11/15
HE THREW FOUR INTERCEPTIONS BUT DIDN'T ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUESS ERUPT URCHIN PARODY
Answer: To get a spot on her owner's lap, the cat used — "PURR-SUASION"

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HITORI-3371

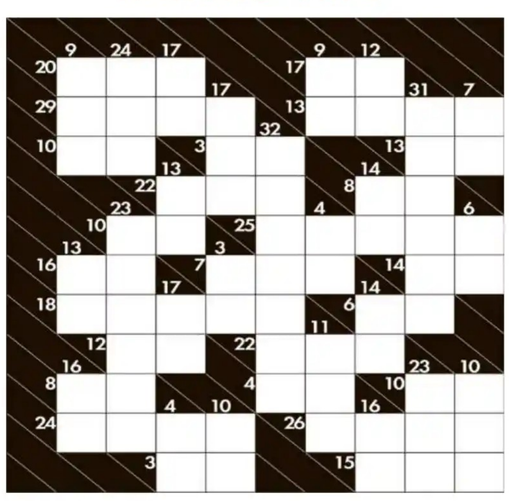
2	1	3	8	1	4	5	3
6	4	8	1	5	7	3	2
3	3	5	3	4	3	2	7
4	2	1	2	3	8	6	2
2	8	4	3	7	6	3	5
8	2	3	3	6	5	8	4
5	5	3	6	8	3	1	2
3	7	6	1	3	2	4	1

SOLUTION TO 3370

7	1	■	5	8	6	■	2
■	7	2	■	6	■	3	8
6	4	■	2	3	7	■	5
■	2	7	■	1	4	8	3
5	6	■	8	■	1	4	■
■	3	5	4	7	2	6	1
3	8	6	1	4	5	■	7
8	■	4	■	5	■	7	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3371



SOLUTION TO 3370

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3929

5			3					■
	8					6	■	
		■		1		4	2	
		9	■		1			
		2		■			6	
	3	6	■		■		4	9
4	1	5				■	7	
	■			7		3	■	
■	7			4				■

SOLUTION TO 3928

9	3	4	6	8	5	7	1	2
5	6	1	2	4	7	9	3	8
2	7	8	3	1	9	4	5	6
7	8	9	4	6	1	5	2	3
3	1	6	7	5	2	8	4	9
4	5	2	8	9	3	1	6	7
8	4	7	1	3	6	2	9	5
1	9	3	5	2	8	6	7	4
6	2	5	9	7	4	3	8	1

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

LUNAR MISSION

Nasa unveils 3-phase plan for setting up permanent moon base

WASHINGTON, PTI

After a successful lunar fly-around, Nasa has announced three missions to the Moon as part of efforts to establish a permanent base on Earth's natural satellite.

At a press conference, Nasa Administrator Jared Isaacman on Tuesday unveiled a $20 billion plan to establish a permanent base on the Moon, equipped with lunar rovers and drones, to carry out experiments that will help master the skills needed to live and operate in the harsh lunar environment.

"America is returning to the Moon. The Moon Base will be America's and humanity's first outpost on another celestial world," Isaacman said. Nasa announced its goal of establishing a lunar base in March and outlined concrete steps on Tuesday. The agency aims to land astronauts on the Moon in 2028.

The space agency said it has selected Blue Origin's Blue Moon Mark 1 Endurance lander for the Moon Base-I mission, planned no earlier than this autumn (September). The mission will deliver equipment such as Stereo Cameras for Lunar Plume-Surface Studies to examine how thrusters interact with the Moon's surface, and a Laser Retroreflective Array, which will help orbiting spacecraft determine precise locations using reflected laser light.

The mission will land on the Shackleton Connecting Ridge to demonstrate capabilities that reduce risk for future crewed Artemis landing missions in 2028. In April, four astronauts orbited the Moon as part of the Artemis II mission, marking the first human spaceflight to travel beyond low Earth orbit since the Apollo 17 mission in 1972. Gene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt were the last astronauts to walk on the Moon in 1972.

The Moon Base II mission, planned for launch later this year, will deliver more than 1,100 pounds of cargo on Astrobotic's Griffin lander, including Astrolab's FLIP rover, to advance mobility systems that will inform future lunar terrain vehicle (LTV) operations.

The Moon Base III mission, also targeted for this year, will carry Nasa's Lunar Vertex science mission to study lunar swirls — bright formations scientists believe may be linked to magnetic fields beneath the lunar surface — along with payloads from the European Space Agency and the Korean Space Agency. Under the three-phase programme, Nasa will test technologies and prepare for surface operations over the next three years.

India warns Pakistan of consequences over terrorism

UNITED NATIONS, PTI: Pakistan will have to accept that there are "consequences" to its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism, India told a UN meeting, underscoring that it has "every right" to defend itself from such attacks carried out by its neighbour.

"I am compelled to respond to baseless and unwarranted remarks made by Pakistan today. India would like to set the facts straight," India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, said at a UN Security Council meeting on Tuesday.

"Independent India began its life battling cross-border aggression by Pakistan, which coveted Indian territories that became part of India as a result of their complete, legal and irrevocable accession," Parvathaneni said. Parvathaneni's strong response came during the Security Council debate on "Upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and strengthening the UN-centred international system", chaired by China as part of its presidency of the 15-nation body for the month of May.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi presided over the opening session of the debate. Addressing the UNSC meeting, Pakistan Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and also referred to the Indus Waters Treaty, which India placed in abeyance following the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack.

US rejects reported Iran draft framework claims

US commits to ending naval blockade in draft deal: Iranian media

WASHINGTON/TEHRAN, REUTERS/AFP

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that Iran very much wanted to reach a deal with Washington but that the US was not satisfied with the current terms, while Iranian state television separately claimed a draft framework included major US concessions that were swiftly denied by the White House.

Speaking at a cabinet meeting at the White House, Trump said Iran was keen to strike an agreement but warned the outcome was still uncertain. "Iran is very much intent, they want very much to make a deal. So far they haven't gotten there... we're not satisfied with it, but we will be. We will be either that or we'll have to just finish the job," Trump told reporters.

Meanwhile, Iranian state TV said on Wednesday that a draft framework with the US included a commitment to lift a naval blockade on Iran, restore traffic in the Strait of Hormuz and withdraw American forces from the Gulf region, adding that the text was still not finalised. The report cited what it described as a memorandum of understanding (MOU) draft under which Iran would reopen commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz within one month, while maintaining control over shipping lanes, inspections and service fees imposed since the conflict began. It also suggested a 60-day negotiation period would follow any framework agreement. However, the White House rejected the claims, calling them false and accusing Iranian state media of fabricating the details.

"This report from Iranian controlled media is not true and the MOU they 'released' is a complete fabrication. Nobody should believe what Iranian state media is putting out. FACTS MATTER," the White House said on X.

The Iranian report also said the draft referred to a possible US commitment on troop withdrawals from the region, though it was unclear whether this applied only to forces deployed during the war or existing bases in the Gulf.

Tehran and Washington have been exchanging proposals in recent days aimed at ending the war, which began on February 28 and has destabilised West Asia, with a fragile ceasefire in place since April 8. A final agreement, if reached, would reportedly require approval by a UN Security Council resolution, according to the draft cited by Iranian media.

The White House reiterated that no such deal existed in final form and criticised media outlets for reporting the Iranian claims.

US President Donald Trump speaks during a cabinet meeting at the White House in Washington DC on Wednesday. REUTERS

DONALD TRUMP
US President

"Iran is very much intent, they want very much to make a deal. So far they haven't gotten there... we're not satisfied with it, but we will be.

VIEW FROM TEHRAN

■ Iranian state TV claimed a draft framework with US includes lifting a naval blockade, reopening the Strait of Hormuz, and US troop withdrawals from West Asia.

Assad-era chemical weapons found in Syria

THE HAGUE, AP/PTI: Dozens of previously undeclared chemical bombs and rockets left over from the rule of then-president Bashar Assad in Syria have been found in the country in recent weeks, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) said in a report on Wednesday.

The OPCW, the global chemical weapons watchdog based in The Hague, said in its May report that its inspectors were able to access "high-priority undeclared locations" since the start of the month. "Dozens of undeclared chemical munitions such as aerial bombs and rockets... have been found at several of these undeclared locations," the report said.

When Syria joined the OPCW in 2013, it declared chemical weapons at 26 sites across the country. However, the watchdog has said it has reason to believe there are an additional 100 undisclosed locations. Following the overthrow of Assad in December 2024, the government under interim president Ahmad al-Sharaa pledged to destroy chemical weapons from the Assad-era programme.

Speaking to the OPCW in The Hague last year, Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad Hassan al-Shibani requested assistance in removing the illegal munitions. Syria's new authorities have committed to "destroy any remains of the chemical weapons programme developed under the Assad regime, to put an end to this painful legacy, to bring justice to victims, and to ensure compliance with international law", he said.

Israel kills Hamas military wing leader in Gaza

Humanitarian crisis continues amid fragile ceasefire

DEIR AL-BALAH, AP/PTI

Israel said on Wednesday that it had targeted and killed the new leader of Hamas' military wing during airstrikes in Gaza City, less than two weeks after killing his predecessor.

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz and the Israeli military said the strikes carried out on Tuesday killed Mohammed Odeh. Hamas did not comment on Odeh's death. At least five people were killed and 12 injured in Tuesday's strike on a market, including Odeh, his wife, son, daughter and another woman, according to local hospitals. The attack came on the eve of Eid al-Adha, a major Muslim holiday.

Thousands of people gathered on Wednesday for the joint funeral of Odeh's family in Gaza City. Mourners covered the four bodies with green Hamas flags and marched from a mosque through the city, chanting and firing shots into the air. Some carried posters of Odeh bearing the words "one of the chiefs of staff of the Qassam Brigades", referring to Hamas' military wing.

Katz called him "one of the architects" of the October 7, 2023 attacks that triggered more than two years of war in Gaza, and said it was the fourth time Israel had killed the head of Hamas' military wing since the massacre. Izz al-Din al-Haddad, the previous head, was killed on May 16.

Mourners gather prior to the burial of Hamas leader Mohammed Odeh in Gaza City on Wednesday. AFP

China tells Quad to stop meddling in maritime affairs

BEIJING, PTI

China on Wednesday reacted strongly to the Quad Ministerial meeting, which voiced serious concerns over the situation in the East and South China Sea, saying the grouping should stop meddling in maritime affairs in its neighbourhood.

The situation in the East China Sea and the South China Sea is generally stable, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing here while responding to a question on the Quad meeting in Delhi.

Foreign ministers of the Quad countries — comprising the US, India, Japan and Australia — explicitly voiced serious concerns over the situation in the East and South China Sea on Tuesday and denounced coercive actions threatening regional peace and stability, without directly naming China.

"Certain countries should stop meddling in maritime affairs in China's neighbourhood and earnestly respect regional countries' efforts to safeguard peace and stability," Mao said.

"Those who attempt to patch up small groupings, hype up tensions and stoke confrontation will find no support," she added. China claims most of the South China Sea as its own, while the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims.

In the East China Sea, Beijing has a maritime dispute with Tokyo over the uninhabited islets called the Senkakus, which are controlled by Japan. China calls them the Diaoyu Islands.

The Quad meeting was chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and attended by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi.

5 villagers trapped in flooded Laos cave found alive

BANGKOK, AP/PTI: Five villagers trapped in a flooded cave in central Laos for more than a week have been found alive, rescuers said on Wednesday, though two others remain missing.

The villagers entered the cave in Xaisomboun province on May 19, but heavy rain triggered flash flooding that blocked the exit and trapped seven people, according to Lao and Thai rescue teams involved in the operation.

Bounkham Luanglath of the Lao organisation Rescue Volunteer for People, which has been working closely with local authorities, told The Associated Press that five people were found safe and alive, but two others are still missing and the search will continue. "I'm still shaking. Our team made it happen," he said in a voice message.

A video posted by a Thai rescue group involved in the mission appeared to show the moment divers emerged from the water and discovered the trapped villagers. In the footage, the villagers, each wearing a headlamp, were seen sitting on a rock surrounded by floodwater.

Other videos showed rescuers inside and outside the cave cheering, jumping, and hugging each other in celebration after the discovery.

Rescue workers from Thailand arrived at the site over the weekend. Those involved include divers from several countries who took part in the 2018 rescue in Thailand of 12 schoolboys and their football coach, who were trapped for more than two weeks in a cave before being safely rescued.

1 dead, 9 missing after US chemical tank explosion

LONGVIEW, AP/PTI: A massive chemical tank holding nearly a million gallons of a highly corrosive liquid imploded and collapsed on Tuesday at a Washington paper mill, killing at least one worker and leaving nine others unaccounted for, with no hope of rescue, authorities said.

Another nine people were injured, some severely, in the spill at Nippon Dynawave Packaging Co. in Longview. The cause remains unclear.

"At the moment we are not aware of any rescues that are yet to be made," Cowlitz Fire and Rescue Chief Scott Goldstein said during a Tuesday evening news conference, where officials repeatedly referred to the situation as a recovery effort.

13,000 migrants face danger in Mexico: Rights group

MEXICO CITY, AP/PTI: The Trump administration has deported nearly 13,000 Cubans, Venezuelans and other nationals to Mexico, where they are vulnerable to cartel violence in an unfamiliar country, according to a report by Human Rights Watch released on Wednesday.

While Mexico has accepted such deportations for years, the report says those deported under the Trump administration are older and have lived in the US for longer than in the past, making it harder for them to find work and increasing the urgency of medical needs.

The report, based on more than 50 interviews in the southern Mexican cities of Tapachula and Villahermosa, comes as United States President Donald Trump has expanded immigration enforcement as part of his mass deportation plan.

This has meant that migrants who were not previously targeted, such as Cubans who have lived in the United States for years or decades, have been caught up in the immigration crackdown.

Some countries, including Cuba and Venezuela, limit deportation flights or refuse to accept deportees, so individuals are instead sent to Mexico or other countries with which the United States has reached agreements.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A buffalo nicknamed "Donald Trump" is transferred to the national zoo in Dhaka on Wednesday. AFP

Viral fame spares 'Donald Trump' buffalo from Eid sacrifice

▸ A rare albino buffalo in Bangladesh - nicknamed "Donald Trump" for its distinctive blond tuft - has been spared from Eid al-Adha sacrifice after a last-minute government intervention, a Home Ministry official said on Wednesday, Reuters reports from Dhaka.

The nearly 700-kg animal had already been sold for ritual slaughter when authorities stepped in, citing security concerns after a surge of public interest ahead of Thursday's festival. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed ordered the buffalo be spared, the buyer refunded, and the animal moved to the national zoo in Dhaka. "At the last moment, the decision was taken to spare the buffalo from sacrifice due to security concerns and the unusual level of public interest," a ministry official said.

What began as a routine Eid purchase quickly turned into a nationwide curiosity after videos went viral. Crowds gathered at the farm, with visitors travelling from far afield to see its blond fringe and calm demeanour. Farm owner Ziauddin Mridha said the name came from his younger brother, who spotted the resemblance. Mridha added that the animal is unusually gentle and needs careful upkeep.

Biden sues Justice Department

▸ Former US president Joe Biden has sued the Justice Department in an effort to block the release of audio recordings and transcripts of his interview with a ghostwriter that were obtained by the special counsel who investigated his handling of classified documents, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

Biden's lawyers said in a lawsuit filed in Washington's federal court that the Justice Department plans to release the files to Congress and a conservative group, the Heritage Foundation, after previously arguing that they were exempt from disclosure under public records law. They argued that the disclosure would "constitute an unwarranted invasion of President Biden's privacy." "Every American, including a sitting or former Vice President, has a right to privacy in the personal conversations," they said.

A policewoman stands guard as smoke rises from a supermarket fire in a predominantly Jewish area of north London on Wednesday. Police have not yet confirmed whether it was an arson attack. AFP

Duterte ICC trial set for Nov

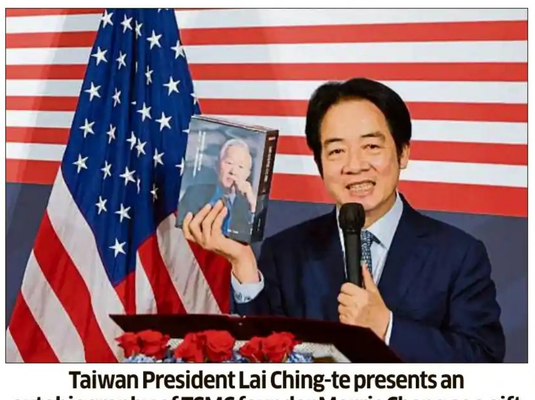
▸ Judges at the International Criminal Court (ICC) said on Wednesday that the trial of former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte for crimes against humanity will begin on November 30, AP/PTI reports from The Hague.

According to prosecutors, the former leader is responsible for dozens of murders, allegedly overseeing deadly anti-drug crackdowns first as mayor of the southern Philippine city of Davao and later as president. "The expediency of the trial is of the utmost importance," presiding Judge Joanna Korner said, rejecting requests from the court registry to delay the start date over concerns about a lack of translators.

US strikes alleged drug boat

▸ The US military launched another strike Tuesday on a vessel suspected of transporting drugs in the eastern Pacific Ocean, killing one man and leaving two survivors, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

Video posted on social media by US Southern Command shows a boat speeding through water before exploding into flames. Southern Command said it "immediately notified the US Coast Guard to activate the Search and Rescue system for the survivors." The Trump administration's campaign of blowing up alleged drug-trafficking vessels in Latin American waters, including the eastern Pacific and the Caribbean Sea, has gone on since early September and killed at least 194 people in total.



Taiwan President Lai Ching-te presents an autobiography of TSMC founder Morris Chang as a gift to US President Donald Trump at a reception marking the upcoming US Independence Day in Taipei on Wednesday. REUTERS

Biz Bytes

Hyundai hikes prices by up to Rs 12,800

NEW DELHI, PTI: Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) on Wednesday said it will hike prices of its vehicles by up to Rs 12,800, depending on the model and variants.

This is in continuation of HMIL's announcement on April 8, 2026, when the carmaker in a regulatory filing announced a 1% hike across its portfolio from next month, citing various cost escalations, effective next month.

The price increase has been necessitated due to rising input costs, increased commodity prices and higher operational expenses, among other reasons, it said.

Aequs reports net loss of Rs 54 cr in Q4

BENGALURU, DHNS: Aequs Limited, an aerospace and consumer goods maker, on Tuesday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 54 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 2026 as against a net profit of Rs 9 crore in the same quarter last year. Its revenue from operations during the quarter went up 47% year-on-year to Rs 367 crore as against Rs 249 crore in the year ago quarter.

The company reported net loss primarily due to commencement of commercial operations in consumer electronics in Q3 which resulted in full operating costs being charged to the P&L while utilisation remained low. Consumer segment contribution increased to 17% of revenues, reflecting continued ramp-up across the segment, Aequs said.

Ola gets nod for commercial e-scooter launch

NEW DELHI, PTI: Ola Electric has secured regulatory approval for a new electric scooter aimed at India's commercial mobility market, according to a government certification document, signalling that the company may be preparing to enter the fast-growing commercial EV two-wheeler segment as early as this quarter.

The homologation, granted by the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) in February 2026 under the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR), covers an L1-category electric scooter powered by a 4-kilowatt motor with a top speed of about 70 km per hour.

The vehicle appears to be based on Ola Electric's existing S1 platform.

TCS bags deal from Swedish company SKF

MUMBAI, PTI: TCS on Wednesday announced that it has bagged a multi-year deal from Swedish bearings-maker SKF.

The financial details were not shared, but sources called it a multi-million dollar engagement. The deal comes at a time when concerns are being raised about the IT sector story following the advent of AI. TCS will enable SKF to build a future-ready digital enterprise, leveraging AI to reimagine industrial manufacturing business, a statement said.

India, US to finalise details of interim trade deal next week

US team led by chief negotiator to visit India from June 1-4

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and the US are scheduled to hold chief negotiator-level talks next week to finalise the details of the interim trade agreement, for which the framework was released in February.

A US delegation led by chief negotiator Brendan Lynch is scheduled to visit India from June 1-4 to carry forward the discussion on the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA).

"It is proposed to finalise the details of the Interim Agreement and take forward the negotiations under the broader BTA on multiple areas, such as market access, non-tariff measures, customs and trade facilitation, investment promotion, economic security alignment," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement on Wednesday.

India and the US agreed on a framework for an interim agreement in February, after multiple rounds of negotiations. The two countries issued a joint statement in this regard on February 7.

Under the framework, the Trump administration agreed to lower "reciprocal" levies on the majority of Indian products, from 25% to 18%, and eliminate the so-called 25% punitive tariff for India's economic engagement with Russia.

However, change in tariff dynamics following the US Supreme Court's ruling impacted the trade negotiations.

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal meets with Fairfax Financial CEO Prem Watsa in Toronto on Wednesday. PTI

A team of Indian trade officials led by chief negotiator Darpan Jain visited Washington DC from April 20-23 for an in-person round of meetings with their American counterparts.

The Commerce and Industry Ministry said the US team will visit India to "carry forward the discussions".

According to the ministry, the framework issued on February 7, reaffirmed both the countries' commitment to the broader India-US BTA negotiations.

The framework also talked about India's intent to purchase $500 billion worth of American goods in the next five years. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who was on a visit to New Delhi recently, reiterated that India "has committed" to purchasing $500 billion worth of American goods over the next five years, focusing on energy, technology and agriculture.

Goyal meets Canadian officials, businessmen

Meanwhile, India and Canada have agreed to conclude the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) by the end of this year. As part of the deal, the two countries target to increase bilateral trade to $50 billion by 2030.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who is on an official visit to Canada, held a series of meetings with Canadian officials and business leaders to finalise the trade deal and strengthen economic partnership.

"The three-day visit, which commenced with key engagements in Ottawa on May 25, is aimed at advancing bilateral trade and economic ties between India and Canada, with a particular focus on accelerating the ongoing negotiations for the India-Canada CEPA," according to a statement issued by the ministry.

Byju's founder gets six months in prison from S'pore court

Raveendran to appeal over contempt of court order

BENGALURU, DHNS

Byju's founder, Byju Raveendran, will be appealing a contempt of court order issued by a Singapore court over non-compliance with disclosure orders. The court sentenced Raveendran to six months in prison, and ordered to pay S$90,000 in costs. This is the latest setback for the founder of the once most-valued EdTech firm.

Byju Raveendran

According to sources, the order is not yet public, and it also relates to a $150-million loan that the company raised from Qatar Investment Authority (QIA).

However, Raveendran in a statement said the Singapore court matter is a procedural contempt of court order, arising only from disputes over document disclosure in ongoing proceedings — not a finding of fraud, dishonesty, or any wrongdoing on the merits. Raveendran has been directed to appear on June 15. According to him, lenders, including GLAS Trust and QIA, have been in discussions with the founders and other parties.

"A settlement has been agreed in-principle, with only a few residual minor issues left to be finalised between certain parties. I have no role in those remaining issues. As part of the settlement discussions, the parties have also acknowledged that there has been no wrongdoing on my part or on the part of the other founders. That is why it is deeply unfortunate that this matter is being used to create a contrary public narrative at this sensitive stage," he added in the statement.

It may be noted that last December, a Delaware court in the US reversed the $1-billion judgment against Raveendran, after he made fresh submissions in a motion to correct the November 20, 2025, judgment. The founders of Think and Learn Pvt Ltd, the parent company of Byju's, in a statement had said the US court agreed that damages had not been determined and ordered a new phase to commence in January 2026, to determine any damages related to claims against Raveendran.

Earlier in a petition filed by Byju's Alpha and US-based lender GLAS Trust Company, the Delaware Bankruptcy Court slapped Raveendran with a default judgment of over $1 billion, after finding that he repeatedly ignored its orders and also failed to participate in the proceedings.

Byju's Alpha was established to receive proceeds of a $1.5 billion Term Loan B. In mid-2022, it started transferring $533 million of the Alpha Funds to Camshaft Capital Fund. On February 1, 2024, Byju's Alpha filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Raveendran in a statement on Wednesday reiterated that neither he nor any of the founders personally received any portion of the disputed funds, and that the funds were used for legitimate business purposes.

Top court sets aside NCLAT order approving penalty on Amazon for investment deal with Future Group

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) June 2022 order that had rejected US e-commerce giant Amazon's appeal against the suspension of its investment deal with Future Group.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta held that the Competition Commission of India (CCI) exceeded its statutory powers in suspending the approval for the 2019 Amazon-Future Coupons investment, saying that merger regulation must be rigorous, but also predictable, fair and anchored in law.

The court quashed the CCI's December 17, 2021, order, which had imposed a Rs 202-crore penalty on Amazon and halted its deal with Future Group.

"In view of the findings recorded, the appeal is allowed. The impugned judgment dated June 13, 2022, passed by the NCLAT, and order dated December 17, 2021, passed by the CCI, are set aside," the bench ruled.

In the case, the bench said, "The findings of suppression, omission, and misrepresentation recorded against the appellant, cannot be sustained."

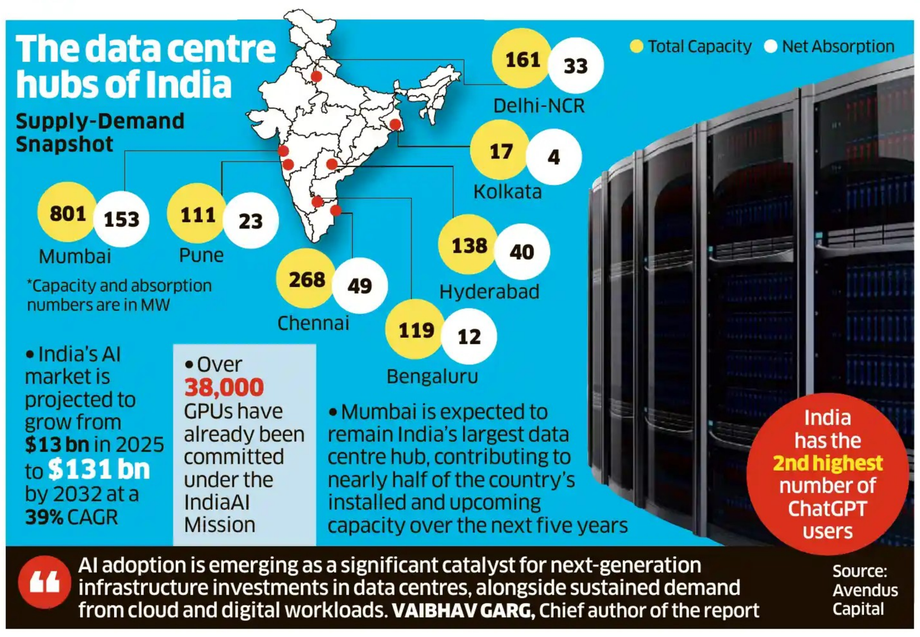
The bench also held that the proceedings were vitiated for breach of principles of natural justice.

The bench added that the CCI and NCLAT were entitled to treat the internal communications as relevant surrounding material. However, they proceeded further to equate internal deliberations with the notified transaction itself, to equate differences in descriptive characterisation with statutory falsehood, and to equate non-furnishing of those materials, including materials pertaining to structures not finally adopted, with penal suppression, without a sufficiently exact demonstration of statutory materiality. Each step in that chain is legally unsound, it held.

'Refund within time'

The court passed the order on a plea filed by Amazon, challenging the NCLAT verdict. The court directed that any amount deposited or recovered from Amazon in pursuance of these orders be refunded within eight weeks.

It further stipulated that if the refund is not made within the stipulated period, the unpaid amount shall carry simple interest at the rate of 9% per annum from the expiry of eight weeks till the date of actual payment.


The data centre hubs of India
Supply-Demand Snapshot
Total Capacity
Net Absorption
161
33
Delhi-NCR
17
4
Kolkata
801
153
Mumbai
111
23
Pune
138
40
Hyderabad
268
49
Chennai
119
12
Bengaluru
*Capacity and absorption numbers are in MW
• India's AI market is projected to grow from $13 bn in 2025 to $131 bn by 2032 at a 39% CAGR
• Over 38,000 GPUs have already been committed under the IndiaAI Mission
• Mumbai is expected to remain India's largest data centre hub, contributing to nearly half of the country's installed and upcoming capacity over the next five years
India has the 2nd highest number of ChatGPT users
AI adoption is emerging as a significant catalyst for next-generation infrastructure investments in data centres, alongside sustained demand from cloud and digital workloads. VAIBHAV GARG, Chief author of the report
Source: Avendus Capital

AI-led demand to triple data centre capacity to 5 GW by 2030

BENGALURU, DHNS

AI-led infrastructure demand, alongside rising cloud and digital adoption is expected to nearly triple the country's built data centre capacity from 1.6 GW in 2025, to about 5 GW by 2030. According to investment bank Avendus Capital's latest report, developers currently have an active pipeline of over 3 GW, including about 1 GW of AI data centre capacity, requiring a total capital investment of nearly $25 billion over the next five years.

The report also said that rising AI adoption could drive deployment of 650,000 to 700,000 GPUs (Graphics Processing Units) in the country's data centres over the next five years, creating a $23-billion investment opportunity. With this, India's data centre capacity is set to grow at a 26% CAGR over the next five years.

While Mumbai currently accounts for approximately 50% of India's total data centre capacity, Chennai remains the second-most preferred location in the country, due to its strategic location benefits. Hyderabad is also developing into a major destination for both colo and hyperscaler self-build projects.

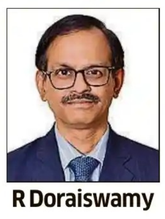
According to the report, 47% of the total additional capacity over the next five years in India is likely to be in Mumbai.

Vaibhav Garg, Director, Infrastructure and Real Assets Investment Banking, Avendus Capital, and chief author of the report, said, "AI adoption is emerging as a significant catalyst for next-generation infrastructure investments in data centres, alongside sustained demand from cloud and digital workloads. This dual demand trajectory has already translated into $5 billion of transaction activity over the last three years, with backing from global institutional investors, infrastructure funds, and strategic operators."

Prolonged West Asia crisis may hit insurance sector: LIC chief

NEW DELHI, PTI: The insurance sector may witness some moderation if the West Asia crisis persists for a longer period, as it could reduce people's income levels, LIC CEO and MD R Doraiswamy said.

"We are all going through a very tough time as already communicated by our Prime Minister. The country has been showing a good amount of resilience and so far has protected the end-consumer from the complete impact of the West Asia crisis," he said.



R Doraiswamy

But in case the crisis continues for a longer time, he said, "It will certainly have a cascading impact on individuals, affecting both their spending and saving patterns. We hope the crisis is resolved at the earliest so that the situation returns to normalcy as quickly as possible. That is what we are looking forward to."

He further said if the broader segment of the economy is impacted, the insurance industry cannot remain isolated.

If society as a whole gets affected and the income of people and their saving capacity get affected, naturally it may affect the insurance industry, he said.

It is noted that various segments of the economy, especially the energy sector, have been hit after the West Asia war broke out on February 28 raising fear slowdown in economic growth and rising inflation.

Stake dilution

Asked if Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is prepared for further dilution of stake by the Centre, Doraiswamy said, "We have been prepared right from day one. When we started preparing for the IPO, we were prepared for this kind of subsequent actions as well. So the call is taken by the government."

As and when a decision is taken on the timing and quantum of further stake dilution, LIC will be fully-prepared to work closely with the government to ensure that the initiative achieves the success it deserves.

LIC came with an IPO, the biggest till 2022 in terms of size, resulting in the government raising about Rs 21,000 crore by diluting just 3.5% stake in the insurance behemoth. Prior to 2022, LIC was wholly-owned by the Government of India.

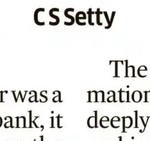
Banking sector key to realising Viksit Bharat vision, says SBI chairman

NEW DELHI, PTI: As India advances towards its Viksit Bharat vision, the banking sector will play a transformative role in mobilising capital, fostering entrepreneurship, supporting infrastructure development, and accelerating financial inclusion, State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman CS Setty said.

"As the country's largest bank, we recognise both the opportunity and responsibility that comes with this role and remain committed to supporting India's growth aspirations," he said in his address to shareholders in the annual report, which was released on Wednesday.

Sharing the vision for SBI, Setty said, "Our strategic priorities will remain firmly centred around strengthening our 'Digital First, Customer First' approach."

The bank will continue investing in technology, data analytics, AI, cybersecurity, and digital infrastructure to create a more intelligent, agile, and responsive banking ecosystem, he said.



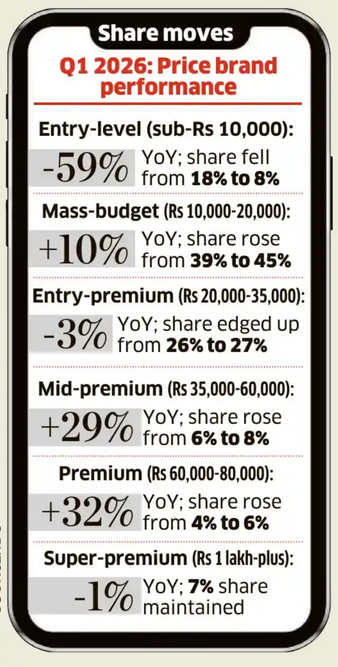
CS Setty

The last financial year was a landmark year for the bank, it said, adding, "building on the momentum of previous years, we strengthened our market leadership across key business segments while continuing our transformation into a technology-driven, customer-centric financial institution".

The next phase of transformation will focus on delivering deeply personalised, seamless, and intuitive banking experiences across all customer segments and channels, he said.

At the same time, he said, "Physical banking will continue to remain an important pillar of our relationship-led model. Our endeavour will be to integrate the strength of our branch network with the speed and convenience of digital platforms, thereby creating a truly omnichannel banking experience for our customers."

COMPONENT CRUNCH


Share moves
Q1 2026: Price brand performance
Entry-level (sub-Rs 10,000):
-59% YoY; share fell from 18% to 8%
Mass-budget (Rs 10,000-20,000):
+10% YoY; share rose from 39% to 45%
Entry-premium (Rs 20,000-35,000):
-3% YoY; share edged up from 26% to 27%
Mid-premium (Rs 35,000-60,000):
+29% YoY; share rose from 6% to 8%
Premium (Rs 60,000-80,000):
+32% YoY; share rose from 4% to 6%
Super-premium (Rs 1 lakh-plus):
-1% YoY; 7% share maintained
SOURCE: IDC

Smartphone brands rethink India strategy as storage chip costs soar

ROHIT K V N
BENGALURU, DHNS

India, touted as the world's fastest-growing and second-largest smartphone market, is starting to show signs of strain.

While Oppo, Motorola, Nothing, and Xiaomi secured good growth, and Samsung registered flat growth, major brands such as Vivo, OnePlus, Realme, Poco, iQOO and Apple suffered a shipment decline in the first quarter (January-March) of 2026, reported International Data Corporation (IDC).

The report noted that shipments in the entry-level segment fell by a whopping 59% YoY in Q1 2026, mainly due to supply crunch in storage chipsets.

"The memory chips being used in smartphones are now also being used across AI data centres, and with demand surging, it becomes a simple demand and supply game," said Akis Evangelidis, Co-founder & India President, Nothing.

To put that into perspective, Evangelidis noted that in early 2025, for a single phone unit that retails at around Rs 40,000, the company used to spend around Rs 19,200 for components, testing, labour charge and manufacturing. And, in that, the company used to spend around Rs 2,000 on storage and RAM components. Now, the prices of the latter have shot up to Rs 11,500 (almost 500% increase), leaving very little room to fit in the camera, battery and other components, meaning manufacturers are increasingly left with no choice but to increase prices.

It can be noted that the phones launched in late-2025 and the first half of 2026 have around 14-15% higher price than their predecessors. The same phone models, in the last few weeks, have received a price hike in the range of Rs 5,000-12,000.

Even if the customer plans to wait for a few months or till the festive season, in the hope that e-commerce firms will offer devices at a discount, they will not see any significant price drop.

"We are used to seeing smartphone prices gradually come down after launch, but that trend is most-likely not going to continue. Demand for memory chips is not slowing down anytime soon, and we foresee this sustaining until at least the second half of next year. That means even smartphones that have already been launched will see their prices increase over time," said Evangelidis.

Some companies have taken up cost-cutting measures that include using outdated chipsets, cosmetic design changes with low build-quality, and a reduction in the number of camera sensors in the phone. In the sub-Rs 10,000 price range, smartphones have limitations on running popular GenAI applications and gaming titles. Consequently, consumers have no choice but to go for premium phones.

Unlike other firms, Apple has largely off-set component cost inflation by raising base storage capacities, instead of sharply increasing retail prices of devices.

"We expect the things (chipset supply crunch) to ease only in H2 of 2027, but we have rarely seen prices coming down, even if memory price pressures ease a bit. So, whether we like it or not, it's the new norm," said Mohammad Faisal Ali Kawoosa, Chief Analyst at consumer electronics market research firm Techarc.

Besides cost-cutting measures, companies are reducing the number of phone launches per annum.

When Bengaluru **first switched on**

Sadhana Attavar writes how a gold rush, a roaring waterfall and a visionary power project made Bengaluru one of Asia's earliest electrically lit cities

"The day must come when electricity will be for everyone, as the waters of the rivers and the wind of heaven. It should not merely be supplied, but lavished, that men may use it at their will, as the air they breathe."

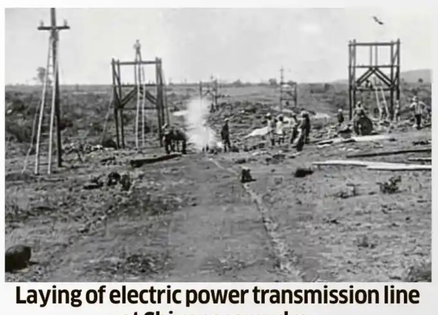
As Émile Zola predicted in his 1901 novel *Travail (Work)*, electricity has indeed become ubiquitous, and today, it is hard to imagine going even a single day without it.

Yet, when *Travail* was published, the reality was starkly different. Then, most cities across the world relied on pitch-soaked wooden torches, oil lamps, kerosene lanterns and candles for illumination. Gradually, however, this began to change, and in India, Bangalore (now, Bengaluru) stood at the heart of that transformation.

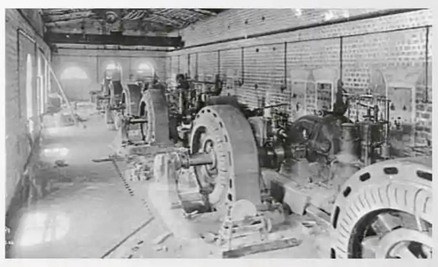
Before the advent of electricity, India's urban centres, including Bengaluru, were lit largely by kerosene lamps. Here, these lamps were maintained by a dedicated team of three lamplighters and an inspector. In some areas, such as the Cantonment market, gas streetlights pioneered by William Murdoch in 1792 were also used. But the transition to electricity began with arc lamps in Mysore (now, Mysuru).

According to Gajanana Sharma, a writer and an engineer who worked with the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL), one of the earliest recorded instances of electric lighting in India occurred on May 26, 1878, when the Mysore Palace yard was illuminated with 12 imported arc lamps powered by a dynamo during the wedding of Maharaja Chamarajendra Wodeyar X. The most dramatic change in streetlighting, however, came with the advent of the practical incandescent bulb invented by Thomas Alva Edison in 1879.

Electrical streetlights at Siddakatte, now KR Market, on August 5, 1905. PHOTOS: KPCL



Laying of electric power transmission line at Shivanasamudra.



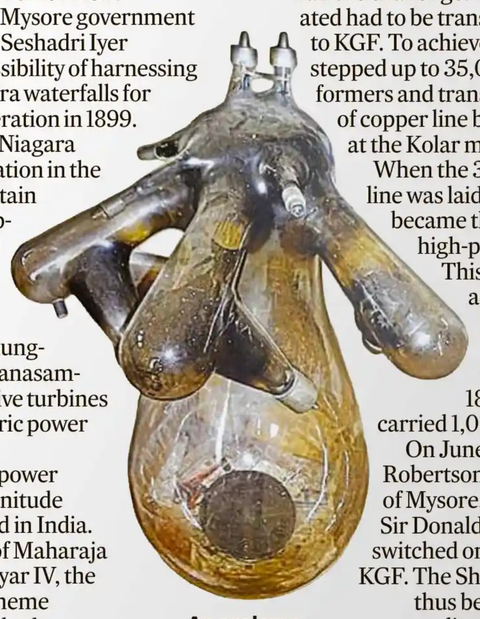
Turbines being set up at Shivanasamudra Hydroelectric Power Station.

Electricity for Kolar

But streetlighting was not the initial trigger for electrification in this region. Instead, it was driven by a hunger for gold. In its early years, the mining machinery at the Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) was powered by steam, but deeper excavation demanded electricity. Recognising this need, John Taylor and Sons, which operated the mines, approached the then Mysore government seeking electric power for KGF.

In response, the Mysore government under Diwan Sir K Seshadri Iyer considered the possibility of harnessing the Shivanasamudra waterfalls for hydroelectric generation in 1899. After studying the Niagara Falls power installation in the United States, Captain Lotbinière, the deputy chief engineer of Mysore State, proposed using the enormous force of the river plunging 419 feet at Shivanasamudra to drive massive turbines and generate electric power for KGF.

A hydroelectric power project of this magnitude was unprecedented in India. With the support of Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, the Cauvery Power Scheme was formally launched in 1900 with an initial capacity of 4,000 hp. The machinery for the plant was manufactured by Escher Wyss & Co, Switzerland, and the American corporation General Electric Company.



An arc lamp. PHOTO COURTESY: DR GAJANANA SHARMA

Generating electricity, however, was only half the challenge. The 4,000 hp generated had to be transmitted nearly 148 km to KGF. To achieve this, the voltage was stepped up to 35,000 volts using transformers and transmitted through 148 km of copper line before stepping it down at the Kolar mines.

When the 35 kV transmission line was laid completely in 1901, it became the longest high-voltage, high-power line in the world. This was an impressive achievement, considering that the famous Niagara Falls–Buffalo transmission line, laid in 1895, spanned 35 km and carried 1,000 hp.

On June 30, 1902, Lady Agnes Robertson, wife of British Resident of Mysore, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Donald Robertson, formally switched on the power supply to KGF. The Shivanasamudra station thus became one of Asia's earliest hydroelectric plants and continues to operate even today.

Electrification of Bengaluru

The Shivanasamudra station was soon generating a surplus of nearly 300–400 hp. Therefore, in 1904, William McHutchin, chief engineer of Mysore, proposed to the Mysore government to utilise the excess power to electrify Bengaluru.

The Mysore government accepted the proposal on April 4, 1904 and the work to install a 92 km, 35 kV single-circuit line from the Shivanasamudra Hydroelectric Power Station to Bengaluru via Kanakapura, soon began. A small substation, simply known as 'M Station', was established near Bengaluru's Victoria Hospital to distribute power to the City.

The first phase included over a hundred streetlights installed at Siddakatte, now known as KR Market. On August 5, 1905, Sir John Hewett, a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, formally switched on these lights, making Bengaluru one of the first cities in Asia to adopt electric street lighting. Soon, additional switching stations were established, and within just ten months, Bengaluru had 861 streetlights and 1,639 domestic electricity connections. Today, two of the original 30-foot wrought-iron streetlamp posts from 1905 still survive, preserved at the head office of the Greater Bengaluru Authority at Corporation Circle.

Societal impact

The transition from kerosene lamps to electric lighting marked a turning point in Bengaluru's history, accelerating its modernisation and shaping its scientific identity. It helped Bengaluru establish itself as an important centre for education and research, beginning with the establishment of the Indian Institute of Science. It also supported industrialisation, with Binny Mills becoming the first major industry to receive power under a contract demand of 500 hp.

After independence, electrification propelled the industrial growth of Bengaluru. In the decades that followed, the city's industrial strength, combined with its educational and research infrastructure, created the ideal foundation for its eventual emergence as India's IT capital.

(Starting this week, this monthly series explores the scientific history of the Bengaluru–Mysuru region, curated by the National Centre for Biological Sciences)

The original electrical streetlamp post from 1905. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

Buzzing a new livelihood

Pavan Kumar H writes about sustainable beekeeping in Kali Tiger Reserve that is empowering forest communities while supporting biodiversity conservation

For years, tailoring had ceased to be a reliable source of income for Shanta Mirashi of Minal village in Uttara Kannada's Joida taluk. At 52, Mirashi, who also served as the village priest, found himself at a crossroads. Migrating to Goa in search of work was not an option, yet staying back in the village without a steady livelihood seemed equally uncertain.

It was around three years ago that he first heard about the apiculture initiative launched by the Kali Tiger Reserve (KTR), a programme that would gradually help stabilise his family's income.

"After I started keeping bees in my backyard, my annual income increased by at least Rs 30,000," says Mirashi.

Mirashi is among the 235 forest dwellers in one of Karnataka's dense forest regions who, through the initiative called Adavi Jhenkara, have found an additional source of livelihood with minimal investment. Adavi Jhenkara translates to 'Forest bee-buzz' in Kannada.

"Initially, the Forest Department gave me three bee boxes. After receiving training from experts, I increased them to 17 boxes. Now, I produce between 25 kg and 43 kg of pure honey every year and sell it to the department for Rs 800 per kg," he says.

Launched in 2023-24 under KTR's SWAYAM-ENEC (Saving Wildlife in Association with Young Aspiring Minds – Eco-development and Nature Education Centre), Adavi Jhenkara seeks to impart scientific beekeeping skills to forest dwellers while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. SWAYAM is a livelihood generation and nature education programme of the forest department. So far, nearly 250 tribal residents have been trained and around 600 bee-colony boxes distributed under the programme.

The initiative also aims to foster what officials describe as a 'biophilic connection' between local communities and the forests around them, strengthening conservation efforts through livelihood support. Of the 235 current beneficiaries, 130 are women.

Community participation

"Adavi Jhenkara is not just a honey initiative; it is a model of how community participation can strengthen conservation. When local communities, especially women, become partners in sustainable livelihoods, they also become stakeholders in protecting forests, wildlife and biodiversity for future generations," says Nilesh Shinde, Field Director of KTR.

To maintain the quality of honey production, the Forest Department has established a bee-breeding centre to ensure a healthy supply of bee colonies for the beneficiaries.

Women attend a training session on beekeeping in Joida.

Deputy Range Forest Officer Gayatri Badiger, who monitors the programme, says the entire process, right from bee cultivation and quality monitoring to the sale of honey collected from tribal communities, is largely managed by locals with support from SWAYAM.

Gayatri points out that the honey produced in Joida is unique because of the region's pristine forest ecosystem. "Since Joida is an organic taluk, the nectar collected from forest flowers carries medicinal properties," she explains.

To ensure high-quality honey production, the department has appointed seven trained personnel who remain in constant contact with participants, providing scientific guidance and helping maintain healthy bee populations.

Officials say Adavi Jhenkara is among the first honey brands developed directly by the Karnataka Forest Department. At present, the products are sold through the SWAYAM office in Kumbharwada near Joida and during department-organised exhibitions.

The department has also tied up with the postal service to deliver 250-gram bottles priced at Rs 200 and 500-gram bottles priced at Rs 400 directly to customers. Encouraged by the response, the department now plans to expand the initiative to another 1,200 forest dwellers across the forest department's Canara Circle. From the current annual collection of 1.25 tonnes of honey, officials hope to increase production to nearly five to six tonnes in the coming years.

Gayatri says the expansion will be guided by findings from an Indian Institute of Science study conducted by faculty member T V Ramachandra which highlights the immense potential for beekeeping in Uttara Kannada, especially in areas with rich vegetation and effective beekeeping practices.

In the coming years, KTR also plans to diversify into honey by-products such as lip balms, soaps and candles with the involvement of women entrepreneurs.

Deputy RFO Gayatri Badiger (second from left) monitors the progress of the beekeeping training session held as part of Adavi Jhenkara initiative. PHOTOS/SWAYAM OF KTR

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

Sunnyside: Where valour and patriotism find a home

A museum in Madikeri brings alive the life and legacy of General K S Thimayya, while also offering a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of Kodagu, writes Bharathi Prabhu

It is a humid morning in Madikeri and we are at the General Thimayya Museum, perched on a sloping terrain in the heart of the town. Even before entering the premises, visitors are greeted by a battle tank stationed outside. A short walk downhill brings into view a huge military boot sculpted in cement. At its base, a plaque carries an ode to the soldier, ending with the poignant line: "*...on the sole of this boot rests a selfless soul.*" The words set the tone for what lies ahead.

With a sense of reverence for our soldiers, we step into Sunnyside, the restored bungalow of General K S Thimayya, the Chief of Army Staff between 1957 and 1961 and the only Indian officer to command an infantry brigade during the World War II. Today, the residence has been transformed into a museum that chronicles the military career and the personal life of Thimayya. Across its 22 rooms, the museum also offers a peek into Kodava culture. It showcases military weapons such as guns, rifles and grenades, models of a submarine and a stealth warship used by the Indian armed forces, and related pictures and artefacts.

Helping visitors absorb this wealth of history is Subedar Major (Retd) Thimmaiah, the museum manager and a passionate advocate of both the armed forces and the museum. Having served in the Army for 28 years, he has firsthand knowledge of the military feats showcased in the museum and offers little nuggets of information that bring the place alive.

Exhibits at the General Thimayya Museum in Madikeri. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

The story of how the museum came into existence is interesting. According to the information displayed in the museum, two local newspapers urged the state government to convert the crumbling Sunnyside bungalow into a museum. The idea received overwhelming public support, prompting political leaders from the region to form a Museum Committee in 2006. The committee, including retired military officers from Kodagu and the deputy commissioner, took up the restoration under the leadership of Lt Gen (Retd) B C Nanda.

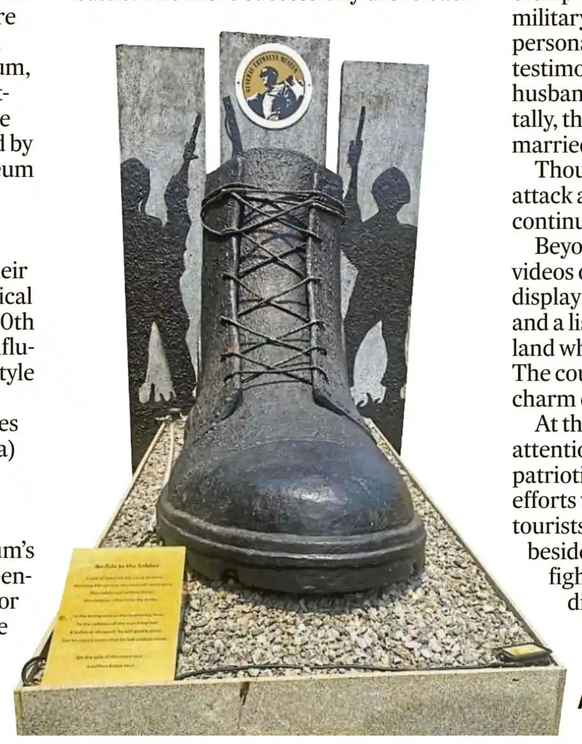
Sunnyside was restored keeping in mind its original character. General Thimayya's family contributed some personal memorabilia while late Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat helped procure many military exhibits. Field Marshal Cariappa and General Thimayya Forum, which works for the welfare of war veterans and encourages youth to join the army, played a key role too. Supported by the state government funds, the museum was finally opened in 2021.

As we step into the museum, a bust of General Thimayya in his military regalia greets visitors. Pictures and their descriptions reflect the lifestyle of typical affluent Kodava families in the early 20th century revealing a strong Western influence as shown in the use of Western-style commodes, education in boarding schools and British-inspired nicknames such as Timmy (for General Thimayya) and Freddie (for his elder brother).

A celebrated military career

'My Military Career', one of the museum's most compelling sections captures General Thimayya's qualities: his concern for his men, his habit of leading from the front and his brilliant planning.

Among his greatest military achievements was the capture of the strategically crucial Zojila Pass during the 1948 conflict with Pakistan. At a time when armoured tanks had never been deployed in high-altitude warfare, Thimayya executed a bold plan of dismantling army tanks and secretly moving them uphill and getting them reassembled for battle. The move successfully drove back the Pakistan army and is considered a masterpiece of mountain warfare strategy.



A military boot sculpted in cement displayed at the museum

The museum also highlights Thimayya's role as the commander of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, where his firm and non-partisan leadership won admiration. Along with the military milestones are glimpses of his personal life such as photographs and testimonials portraying him as a loving husband and a doting father. Incidentally, the General and his wife Nina were married at Sunnyside.

Though the general died of a heart attack at the age of 59 in 1965, his legacy continues to live on.

Beyond this, the museum plays short videos on Kodava practices and has a display of Kodava weapons, jewellery and a list of distinguished persons of the land who have excelled in various fields. The courtyard and a fountain add to the charm of this well-maintained place.

At the exit door, a message caught my attention. "If this journey fills you with patriotism, then we will consider our efforts worthwhile." Hopefully, for the tourists stopping to take photographs beside the decommissioned MiG fighter jet and other exhibits, these displays offer a deeper historical connection rather than just a quick photo op.

Harmanpreet Singh

Harmanpreet back to lead India

NEW DELHI, PTI: Captain and ace drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh on Wednesday returned to lead a 24-member Indian men's hockey squad for the European leg of next month's FIH Pro League, which will be a crucial preparatory competition ahead of the World Cup in August.

Harmanpreet had missed the Hobart leg of the Pro League in February citing personal reasons. The Indians will first travel to Brussels for training and a friendly match from June 7 to 9.

Following this short camp, the squad will be in Rotterdam in the Netherlands from June 10 for the Pro League matches against Germany and the Netherlands scheduled for June 14 to 21.

Thereafter, the Indian team will fly to London, where it will face Pakistan and England in the Pro League from June 23 to 28.

The squad features a blend of seasoned veterans and young talent to solidify the core team heading into the World Cup, which begins August 15.

Suqad: Goalkeepers: Mohith Honnenahalli Shashikumar, Suraj Karkera

Defenders: Harmanpreet Singh (captain), Amit Rohidas, Sumit, Sanjay, Yashdeep Siwach, Amandeep Lakra, Jarmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh

Midfielders: Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Rajinder Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Rabichandra Singh Moirangthem

Forwards: Mandeep Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Abhishek, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Dilpreet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Selvam Karthi.

TENNIS FRENCH OPEN

Swiatek, Svitolina ease through

Coco sees off Townsend, 2nd seed Rybakina out; Sinner wins

PARIS, AFP

Four-time champion Iga Swiatek and Elina Svitolina both eased into the French Open third round with straight-sets wins on Wednesday, ahead of Novak Djokovic's match against Valentin Royer.

Swiatek, looking to regain the title she last won in 2024, saw off battling Czech youngster Sara Bejlek 6-2, 6-3 on Court Philippe Chatrier.

The third-seeded Pole will next face either fellow former winner Jelena Ostapenko or compatriot Magda Linette as she bids to preserve her record of having always reached the second week at Roland Garros.

Swiatek is playing at a first Grand Slam tournament since linking up with Rafael Nadal's former coach Francisco Roig.

But it was the end of the road for Australian Open champion Elena Rybakina suffered a shock early exit in the second round at the hands of unseeded Ukrainian Yuliia Starodubtseva.

The Kazakh world No. 2 blew a one-set lead in dramatic fashion at Roland Garros, slumping to a 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (10/4) loss.

earlier in the day, Svitolina, who beat Swiatek en route to the Rome title, beat world number 126 Kaitlin Quevedo 6-0, 6-4.

She struggled through her first-round tie, edging out Hungary's Anna Bondar in a deciding-set tie-break on Monday, before watching her husband Gael Monfils' final French Open match in the night session.

But Svitolina raced out of the blocks this time, quickly taking control against Quevedo.

The Spaniard competed better in the second set until a break in the ninth game helped Svitolina wrap up victory.

Svitolina, who reached her fourth career Slam semifinal earlier this year at the Australian Open, will next play Germany's Tamara Korpatsch, who made a major third round for the first time at the age of 31 by beating Chinese 32nd seed Wang Xinyu.

Poland's Iga Swiatek defeated Czech youngster Sara Bejlek 6-2, 6-3 in the second round of the Roland Garros in Paris on Wednesday. AFP

Sinner dominates

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner put on a typically efficient display in his opening match at the French Open on Tuesday, moving past Clement Tabur to book his spot in the second round.

The 24-year-old Italian needed just over two hours to beat the French wildcard 6-1, 6-3, 6-4.

It was a 30th straight win for Sinner and showed his challengers, if they were in any doubt, that the red-hot Italian is focussed on continuing his streak as he seeks to complete his career Grand Slam.

After winning all three clay-court Masters 1000 events in the run-up to Roland Garros, Sinner appears to have cracked the code to victory on the red dirt.

Coco's mini crash

Coco Gauff was involved in a car accident on the way to Roland Garros for the first match of her French Open title defense. She did not appear injured.

"We got in a mini car accident on my way to the site today," Gauff told TNT Sports with a laugh. "We ran into a (pole). You felt a little impact. I spilled my juice all over the car.

"The car was not drivable. So we ended up taking a taxi," Gauff added after beating fellow American Taylor Townsend 6-4, 6-0.

Second round results

Prefix denotes seeding: Men: 8-Alex de Minaur (Aus) bt Alexander Blockx (Bel) walkover; Thiago Tirante (Arg) bt 21-Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (Esp) 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-1, 6-3; 13-Karen Khachanov (Rus) bt Marco Trungelliti (Arg) 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-1, 7-6 (4); Jesper de Jong (Ned) bt Federico Cina (Ita) 6-3, 6-1, 6-3.

Women: 7-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) bt Kaitlin Quevedo (Esp) 6-0, 6-4; Tamara Korpatsch (Ger) bt 32-Wang Xinyu (Chn) 6-2, 2-6, 6-3; Peyton Stearns (USA) bt Daria Snigur (Ukr) 6-4, 6-0; 11-Belinda Bencic (Sui) bt Caty McNally (USA) 6-4, 6-0; Viktorija Golubic (Sui) bt Alycia Parks (USA) 6-2, 6-2; 3-Iga Swiatek (Pol) bt Sara Bejlek (Cze) 6-2, 6-3; Yuliia Starodubtseva (Ukr) bt 2-Elena Rybakina 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (10/4).

India beat Australia in shootout

PERTH, PTI: The Indian women's hockey team came from behind to force a 1-1 draw before registering a 4-2 win in the shootout against Australia to level the four-match friendly series 1-1 here on Wednesday.

After an entertaining start to the game, Australia took the lead, courtesy a goal from Olivia Downes (10th minute) at the Perth Hockey Stadium.

But the Indian team upped the ante by creating opportunities from a series of penalty corners and putting the Australians under pressure.

The home team's resistance was finally broken in the final quarter as Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam (46th) found the back of the net, bringing India back on level terms.

The visitors prevailed 4-2 in the shootout with goals from Navneet Kaur, Ishika Chaudhary, Annu and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal.

The third match of the series will be played on Friday.

Rise Again wins Season Opener Trophy

MYSURU RESULTS

Fahad Khan-trained Rise Again, ridden by C Umesh, won the Season Opener Trophy, the main event of the races on Wednesday.

1. The Dubare Forest Plate (Div-II) - 1200M: Fashionista (Lave Kumar) 1, Anushtubha (Koshi Kumar 2) , Perfect Heart (Prabhu Kumar), Jannat (Sabdar Shah Khadri)4. WB: Shd, 2 1/4, 1 1/2. T: 1:14.06. TB: Ruban P. Fav: Anushtubha.

2. The Melukote Plate - 1400M: Sira (S Antony Raj) 1, Natural One (Ankit Pal) 2, Cloudy Hills (Mukesh Kumar) 3, I Like Too Hoo Haa Darshan Antony) 4. Not run: Just Blues 3. WB: 3/4, 2 1/2, 1 3/4. T: 1:24.74. TB: K S Mandanna. Fav: Sira.

3. The Dubare Forest Plate (Div-I) - 1200M: Habibti (Ashhad Asbar) 1, Scout (Ankit Pal) 2, Higher Love (SG Prasad) 3, Elsa (Asirvatham) 4. Not run Gobby. WB: 2 3/4, 7 1/4, Lnk. T: 1:12.33. TB: Zulquarnain Fav: Elsa.

4. The Kushalnagar Plate (Div-II) - 1200M: Silver Quest (Faizan) 1, Chief Admiral (S Antony Raj) 2, Secret Shadow (Ankit Pal) 3, Golden Sabre (Sah Farid Ansari) 4. WB: 5 1/4, 3 3/4, 1 1/4. T: 1:11.61. TB: KS Mandanna. Fav: Silver Quest.

5. The Beloved Prince Plate - 1100M: Gold Ride (Sah Farid Ansari) 1, Klimt (Sai Kiran) 2, Seolfor Bullet (A Mhatre) 3, Silent Achiever (A R Pradeep) 4. Not run : D Gold Star. WB: 4 1/2, 2, 2 1/2. T: 1:04.71. TB: Ramanathan. Fav: Gold Ride.

6. The Season Opener Trophy - 1400M: Rise Again (C Umesh) 1, Drisana (B Nikhil) 2, Heroism (Faizan) 3, Mother's Grace (Mukesh Kumar) 4. WB: 3/4, 3/4, 1 3/4. T: 1:23.80. TB: Fahad Khan. Fav: Persian Rock.

7. The Kushalnagar Plate (Div-I) - 1200M: Belgownie (C A Brisson) 1, Super Stride (H Rahul) 2, Red Hills (Ashhad Asbar) 3, Miraculous Girl (A Mhatre) 4. WB: 2 3/4, 1 1/4, 3 1/4. T: 1:12.16. TB: J Sebastian. Fav: Miraculous Girl.

8. The Trombay Plate 1400M: Bluemed (B Nikhil) 1, Splendido (S Imran) 2, Royal Baron (Sai Kiran) 3, Mitzinger (A S Peter) 4. WB: Lnk, 4 1/4, 3)4. T: 1:25.19. TB: J Sebastian. Fav: Straordinario.

Bengaluru Dividends

I race: Rs 78 (w); 21, 20, 21 (p); Shp: Rs 41; Thp: Rs 58; Fc: Rs 470; Q: Rs 162; Tri: Rs 1432 & 710. Exp: Rs C/F.

II race: Rs 19 (w); 12, 10, 20 (p); Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 51; Fc: Rs 53; Q: Rs 26; Tri: Rs 124 & 47. Exp: Rs 1218 &. 689.

III race: Rs 23 (w); 11, 18, 57 (p); Shp: Rs 39; Thp: Rs 120; Fc: Rs 143; Q: Rs 79; Tri: Rs 1766 & 851. Exp: Rs 12,579 & 1155.

IV race: Rs 14 (w); 10, 13, 23 (p); Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 36; Fc: Rs 39; Q: Rs 23; Tri: Rs 247 & 132. Exp: Rs 992 & 481.

V race: Rs 19 (w); 12, 11, 17 (p); Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 44; Fc: Rs 48; Q: Rs 29; Tri: Rs 101 & 44. Exp: Rs 1039 & 523.

VI race: Rs 31 (w); 14, 82, 20 (p); Shp: Rs 267; Thp: Rs 44; Fc: Rs 1391; Q: Rs 684; Tri: Rs 6896 & 1642. Exp: Rs 10,750 & 4607.

VII race: Rs 28 (w); 14, 33, 28 (p); Shp: Rs 118; Thp: Rs 82; Fc: Rs 1474; Q: Rs 1703; Tri: Rs C/F & 6496. Exp: Rs 9124 & 3910.

VIII race: Rs 45 (w); 19, 23, 15 (p); Shp: Rs 57; Thp: Rs 37; Fc: Rs 559 ; Q: Rs 473; Tri: Rs 2718 & 1830. Exp: Rs 30,955 & 13,266.

Jackpot: Rs 2290 & 147. **Mini Jackpot:** Rs 1284. **Treble I:** Rs 552. **Treble II:** Rs 110. **Treble III:** Rs 606.

India gear up for final tune-up before T20 World Cup

All eyes will be on pacers Renuka, Kranti, Arundhati

CHELMSFORD (UK), PTI

India will look to regain consistency and finalise their combination in the final dress rehearsal for next month's women's T20 World Cup when they take on hosts England in a three-match series starting here on Thursday.

With the global event set to begin on June 12, the tour assumes added significance for Harmanpreet Kaur's side, which has shown flashes of brilliance over the past year but has struggled to maintain momentum consistently.

India's preparations for the T20 World Cup have been a mixed bag. They began strongly with a commanding 5-0 clean sweep over Sri Lanka at home last December before scripting history in Australia by clinching a 2-1 T20I series victory, their first bilateral series win there in a decade.

Harmanpreet Kaur-led India will play three-match T20 series against hosts England, starting Thursday. BCCI

LIVE 11 PM SONY SPORTS

The triumph in Australia was seen as a major step forward for a side that has often struggled overseas, especially in pressure situations. The batters' aggressive approach and the bowlers' discipline offered encouraging signs in the lead-up to the World Cup.

However, the momentum dropped during the subsequent South Africa tour where India endured a disappointing 1-4 defeat in conditions that exposed several concerns ahead of the marquee tournament.

The batting lacked consistency, the middle order struggled to finish games, and the bowling attack failed to deliver regularly in crunch moments as India looked out of rhythm for most of the series.

The England series thus gives India the opportunity to work on these aspects before their opening T20 World Cup match against Pakistan on June 14.

Renuka Singh Thakur, Kranti Goud and Arundhati Reddy are expected to share the pace-bowling responsibilities, while the team management could also look at giving rookie Nandini Sharma some game time after the youngster impressed with her fast-bowling skills in the Women's Premier League.

With India's pacers struggling in South Africa and conditions in England expected to assist seam bowling, the visitors' pace attack will need to be far more disciplined and alert from the outset.

There are positives, though, with Radha Yadav and Yastika Bhatia returning to the squad .

Nihal qualifies for Esports World Cup

MUMBAI, PTI: Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin, representing esports and gaming content outfit S8UL, has qualified for the chess event of the upcoming Esports World Cup (EWC) in Paris through the Champions Chess Tour (CCT) leaderboard.

He has joined teammate Aravindh Chithambaram, becoming only the second Indian player to qualify for the prestigious tournament so far. This year's EWC chess competition will take place from August 11 to 15.

Overall, the EWC is set to take place from July 6 to August 23 featuring over 2,000 players from 200 clubs across more than 100 countries competing for a record-breaking prize pool of USD 75 million (Rs 718 crore).

The CCT season featured two major events, the Speed Chess Championship (SCC) 2025 and Chess.com Open (CCO) 2026.

Nihal narrowly missed out on direct qualification through the CCO after finishing fourth, just one spot away from qualification, but still secured 100 crucial leaderboard points from the event.

Gukesh, Praggu suffer defeats

OSLO, PTI

D Gukesh ran out of steam and surrendered to Wesley So in Armageddon after failing to convert his classical promise, while red-hot Frenchman Alireza Firouzja tore past R Praggnanandhaa to storm to the top on a bruising second day for the Indians at Norway Chess here.

Defending champion Magnus Carlsen was pushed to the brink yet again by German sensation Vincent Keymer before the seven-time champion finally escaped with an Armageddon victory, clawing his way to his first points of the tournament after another fierce battle.

Despite the disappointing second-round Armageddon result, Gukesh stayed joint second with So on 2.5 points, while the rampant Firouzja opened up a commanding lead with six points after back-to-back wins.

Praggnanandhaa and Carlsen, meanwhile, languished at the bottom with 1.5 points each in the prestigious event.

To make matters worse for Gukesh, who will turn 20 in a couple of days, So bluntly remarked after the game that he was "not quite sure" the Indian was as strong as his rating suggested.

Alireza Firouzja

Gukesh, visibly shaken by the Armageddon defeat, tried to put up a brave face during his mandatory broadcast duties, but the frustration was hard to miss when he walked away with anger and disappointment written all over his face.

In the marathon classical battle lasting 116 moves, it was Gukesh who did most of the pressing and appeared to be cruising towards the winning line before So somehow escaped with a draw.

Standings after Round 2: Open: Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 6) 1; Wesley So (USA, 2.5) 2; D Gukesh (Ind, 2.5) 3; Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 1.5) 4; R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 1.5) 5. **Women:** Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 4.5) 1, Divya D (Ind, 3) 2, Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 2.5) 4; Zhu Jiner (Chn, 2.5) 5; Ju Wenjun (Chn, 2) 6; Koneru Humpy (Ind, 1) 7.

IN BRIEF

Big win for DYES Kudige

Sinchana KP (5th, 14th, 41st minute) and BS Deechamma (33rd, 40th, 43rd) netted a hat-trick each as DYES Kudige defeated Yes for Hockey Government School 9-0 in the Hockey Karnataka U-16 Women's tournament on Wednesday, reports DHNS.

Results: DYES Kudige: 9 (Sinchana KP 5th, 14th, 41st, Yashika KK 23rd, BS Deechamma 33rd, 40th, 43rd, Snitha HG 36th, Pavana 46th) bt Yes for Hockey Govt. Schools, Bengaluru: 0; Hockey Belgaum: 8 (Anushri J 5th, Jiya P Navakhandkar 13th, 25th, Amulya 16th, 28th, Prathiksha Gurav 27th, 39th, Savani 25th) bt Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Bengaluru: 0; DYES Dharwad: 8 (Preeti S Neelaraddi 1st, 8th, Vidya Ponnamma 6th, 39th, Soumya M Hittalamani 13th, Sanjana Huggennavar 15th, Shilpa M Kanjanavar 33rd, Madhushree Geddikeri 35th) bt Jnana Sweekar Public School, Bengaluru: 0; DYES Hassan: 3 (Madhurya GS 23rd, 30th min, GH Anushya 28th) bt Bengaluru Blues Hockey Club, Bengaluru: 0.

HBR beat Vanguards

HBR BC defeated Bangalore Vanguards 100-65 in the semifinal super league of the State B Division League Championshops for men for MC Srinivasa Memorial Trophy at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium courts on Wednesday, reports DHNS.

Result: HBR BC: HBR BC 100 (Vinoth 28, Sanketh 27) bt Bangalore vanguards 65 (Avinash 35); Ht 48-30.

ON TV

CRICKET

1st Women's T20: England vs India **(11 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV**.

BADMINTON

Singapore Open: Round of 16 **(7:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 1, JioHotstar**.

TENNIS

Roland Garros: Second Round **(2:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode**.

Esha wins 25m pistol gold with world record

MUNICH, PTI: Three-time world championship medallist Esha Singh **(in pic)** bossed the women's 25m pistol final with a world record score of 43 as she clinched the gold to open India's medal account on the second day of the ISSF World Cup here on Wednesday.

In a power-packed final, the 21-year-old Esha shot perfect fives in half of the 10 series of five shots, leaving home favourite and former world champion Doreen Vennekamp, a full five shots behind for silver. Bulgarian Miroslava Mincheva won the bronze in a field where reigning Olympic champion Yang Jiin bowed out in fifth.

It was also India's first medal of the Munich World Cup after two days of competition at the Olympic Shooting range here. It was Esha's fourth individual world cup medal.

"Munich meant a lot to me. Everyone knows the kind of competition that goes on here, especially in pistol. I mean even getting into the top eight is very tight. I really wanted to win this as this was my third time here," said Olympian Esha, also a double Asian Games medallist.

"I am really grateful and loved the experience."

Speaking about nerves in a big final, she said, "I wasn't calm at all. At one time when trying to hear the command I could almost feel my left hand shaking. I had a lot of nerves but in our sport you can't escape that. You have to face it and embrace it and that is what experience is all about."

Compatriots Manu Bhaker and Rahi Sarnobat shot scores of 582 and 581 to finish at 12th and 14th positions respectively.

Randhir Singh: Shooter with an administrative brain

NEW DELHI, PTI

1946-2026

Veteran sports administrator and India's first shooting gold-medallist in Asian Games, Randhir Singh, died here on Wednesday after battling age-related ailments, marking the end of an era in the country's sporting landscape on which he left a lasting impact in varied roles.

Singh was 79 and had undergone hospitalisation for several days before breathing his last at his residence here. He is survived by his wife Vinita and three daughters -- Mahima, Sunaina and Rajeshwari, who is also a shooter.

Singh recently quit his position as the President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) due to health issues, ending his run of over four decades as a sports administrator.

He was elected to the OCA top position for a four-year term in 2024, having already served the body as Secretary General from 1991 to 2015.

"With deep sorrow, we share the sad news of the passing of Raja Randhir Singh, who left for his heavenly abode today, on 27th May 2026," stated Rajiv Bhatia, secretary of the National Rifles Association of India (NRAI).

"A distinguished Olympian, Arjuna Awardee, and one of the most respected sports administrators in India, Asia, and the International Olympic Committee, Raja Randhir Singh, made invaluable contributions to the development of shooting sports and the Olympic movement.

"The National Rifle Association of India and the entire shooting fraternity mourn this irreparable loss and extend heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. May his noble soul rest in eternal peace," he added.

Singh's death triggered an outpouring of condolence messages as administrators current and former, along with top athletes issued emotional tributes, lauding his role in Indian sports.

Singh's stellar sporting career included five Olympic appearances and the historic trap gold in the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games that earned him the Arjuna Award in 1979.

His Olympic appearances came in Tokyo 1964 (Reserve Shooter), Mexico 1968, Munich 1972, Montreal 1976, Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984.

In his equally successful administrative career, he served as the Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) from 1987 to 2010 and was also a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in different capacities from 2001 to 2014.

In 2003, his role expanded to becoming IOC's representative in the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for two years.

A descendent of the former Maharaja of Patiala and cricket player, Bhupinder Singh, Randhir Singh was one of the most recognisable sports administrators in India.

He was admired for his ability to drive consensus in the often fragmented administrative structure of Indian sports and was widely credited for promoting the Olympic movement in the country.

His shooting legacy has been kept alive by Rajeshwari, who is also a trap shooter.

Indian wrestlers win freestyle team title

DA NANG (VIETNAM), PTI: Indian men's freestyle team emerged undisputed champions at the U23 Asian Wrestling Championships with the country finishing its campaign with 27 medals across categories here on Wednesday.

The freestyle team lifted the trophy ahead of powerhouse nations Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, who finished second and third respectively.

In total, India won eleven gold, seven silver, and nine bronze, across the Freestyle, Women's Wrestling, and Greco-Roman categories.

The championship-winning freestyle squad wrapped up their campaign with nine medals, including four gold, three silver, and two bronze.

Akshay T Dhere (57kg), Kumar Mohit (65kg) and Chandermohan (79kg) and Vicky (97kg) won gold.

IPL 2026

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

> I'm especially pleased that we've got a number of people contributing to wins. We're not too dependent on one or two players with the bat or one or two with the ball.
>
> **MO BOBAT, RCB DIRECTOR OF CRICKET**

Vaibhav's thunder eclipses Sunrisers

15-year-old misses out on IPL's fastest ton as RR enter Q2

Rajasthan Royals' Vaibhav Sooryavanshi hits one to the boundary during his 29-ball 97 in their win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in Eliminator in New Chandigarh on Wednesday. PTI

SIDNEY KIRAN
MULLANPUR, DHNS

Teenage wonder Vaibhav Sooryavanshi gave another demonstration of his otherworldly talent that has already left the cricketing world spellbound as Rajasthan Royals rode on his magical knock to decimate Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Eliminator clash here on Wednesday.

Having already given ample indication of his infinite possibilities by scoring 583 runs at a scarcely believable strike rate of 232.27 prior to this do-or-die game at the Mullanpur Stadium, the 15-year-old Sooryavanshi raised the bar even higher by smashing a jaw-dropping 97 off 29 balls (5x5, 12x6) to almost single-handedly steer 2008 champions Rajasthan to 243/8 in 20 overs.

Despite the target being an imposing one, Rajasthan knew they still had a fight on their hands considering how collectively power-packed Sunrisers' batting was. But pacer Jofra Archer defused all of that with a three-wicket burst in the first spell, dismissing the dangerous trio of Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Travis Head inside the Powerplay to decisively swing the game Rajasthan's way. Thereafter, Rajasthan just kept chipping away with the wickets at regular intervals to speed away to 47-run victory and set up a Qualifier 2 clash against Gujarat Titans at the same venue on Friday.

The day, however, belonged to the incredibly gifted Sooryavanshi, who is well on course to walking away with the Player of the Tournament award with another innings of the highest quality. Just like how he's batted right throughout the season, showing no fear whatsoever to even the most fearsome of fast bowlers, the southpaw tore apart Pat Cummins and Co like a seasoned pro rather than a school kid.

The very third ball he faced off Cummins, he lofted the Sunrisers skipper for a straight six, signalling his intention right at the very outset. Sunrisers, who were at the reaching end of a 37-ball 103 blitzkrieg from the Sooryavanshi the last time the two sides met a month ago in Jaipur, came with a changed plan for the teenager. They bowled full and around his off-stump, taking off his strengths — shots square of the wicket and leg-side flicks. But Sooryavanshi was game for the challenge.

Whenever the ball was pitched up, Sooryavanshi nonchalantly lofted it straight back. If they pulled their length back, Sooryavanshi was waiting to rock back and smash it for a maximum. No matter what Cummins and his pace bowling colleagues Eshan Malinga, Sakin Hussain, and Praful Hinge tried, nothing worked.

Cummins held a lot of deliberations, and the think-tank in the dugout kept giving advice, but nothing could stop the Sooryavanshi destruction. The Bihari was in a mood, and the only way he could be stopped was if he got out by himself. For the most part, it didn't look like that as Sooryavanshi was determined to lay waste to everything in his path.

In no time, he raced away into the 90s, and the record for IPL's fastest century was up for grabs. Having already erased Chris Gayle's record for most sixes (59) in a single season, he eyed the 30-ball ton mark the West Indian has held. Batting on 97 off 28 balls, his eyes lit up when Hinge bowled a short and wide delivery. He went for the cut but, sadly to his dismay, he mistimed a ball for the first time and was caught in the deep. He just couldn't believe what he'd done and took a long time to process the missed opportunity. He trudged back disappointed, but he'd done his part. In fact, he'd already stolen the show.

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS: Yashasvi Jaiswal c Abhishek b Shivang 29 (29b, 4x4), Vaibhav Sooryavanshi c Smaran b Hinge 97 (29b, 5x4, 12x6), Dhruv Jurel c Nitish b Hinge 50 (21b, 5x4, 3x6), Riyan Parag c Klaasen b Hinge 26 (12b, 2x4, 2x6), Donovan Ferreira (run out) 12 (9b, 1x4), Dasun Shanaka c Abhishek b Malinga 5 (3b, 1x4), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 12 (9b, 1x4), Jofra Archer c Abhishek b Nitish 4 (5b, 1x4), Nandre Burger (run out) 1 (1b), Sushant Mishra (not out) 1 (3b). Extras (B-2, NB-1, W-3) 6. **TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 20 overs) 243.**
Fall of wickets: 1-125 (Sooryavanshi), 2-137 (Jaiswal), 3-192 (Jurel), 4-207 (Parag), 5-214 (Shanaka), 6-234 (Ferreira), 7-238 (Archer), 8-240 (Burger).
Bowling: Pat Cummins 4-0-64-0 (w-1), Eshan Malinga 4-0-40-1 (w-1), Sakib Hussain 4-0-52-0, Praful Hinge 4-0-54-3 (w-1, nb-1), Shivang Kumar 2-0-19-1, Nitish Kumar Reddy 2-0-12-1.
SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: Abhishek Sharma c Jurel b Archer 0 (2b), Travis Head b Archer 17 (8b, 2x4, 1x6), Ishan Kishan c Ferreira b Archer 33 (11b, 3x4, 3x6), R Smaran c Archer b Burger 1 (4b), Heinrich Klaasen lbw Punja 18 (10b, 2x4, 1x6), Nitish Kumar Reddy, c Shanaka b Jadeja 38 (20b, 3x4, 2x6), Salil Arora c Burger b Jadeja 35 (21b, 2x4, 2x6), Pat Cummins c Archer b Mishra 1 (2b), Shivang Kumar c Sooryavanshi b Mishra 27 (24b, 3x4), Eshan Malinga c Archer b Burger 5 (8b), Sakib Hussain (not out) 5 (7b, 1x4). Extras (NB-1, W-15) 16. **TOTAL (all out, 19.2 overs) 196.**
Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Abhishek), 2-51 (Kishan), 3-52 (Smaran), 4-57 (Head), 5-81 (Klaasen), 6-137 (Nitish), 7-139 (Cummins), 8-163 (Arora), 9-187 (Malinga).
Bowling: Jofra Archer 4-0-58-3 (w-1), Nandre Burger 3-0-26-2 (w-2), Brijesh Sharma 3-0-31-0, Yash Raj Punja 4-0-39-1 (w-2), Sushant Mishra 2.2-0-21-2 (w-3), Ravindra Jadeja 3-0-21-2 (w-2).
Result: RR won by 47 runs. **PoM:** Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. **Qualifier 2:** RR vs GT (Mullanpur, May 29).

Fearless Patidar aims to put bowlers under pressure

DHARAMSALA, PTI

Royal Challengers Bengaluru captain Rajat Patidar on Tuesday said a fearless approach of not worrying about being dismissed, and looking to put bowlers under pressure, is his mantra after powering his side to the IPL final with a 92-run win over Gujarat Titans.

Patidar went hammer and tongs in his 33-ball 93 not out which included nine sixes and five fours and lifted RCB to a highest-ever total of 254 for five in an IPL knockout game.

In reply, Gujarat Titans were blown away for a mere 162 in 19.3 overs as RCB, the defending champions, stormed into a second consecutive final.

"(It was a) super game for us, the way the batters dominated, striking with intent, was good for us. It wasn't a clear plan, but we were ready for it, have to show some body language that we are ready for you, every batter showed it, attacking mindset," Patidar told the broadcaster after the match.

"I take a few balls 8-10 balls to see how the wicket is doing and then I have a clear mind to go about it, I'm not worried about my wicket. I try and put the bowler under pressure.

"The wicket was not that easy to get under the ball and hit, there was variable bounce. The way GT played till now, we were clear we had to get their three main batters out in the powerplay, and it worked," he said.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who returned 4-0-28-3 to reclaim the Purple Cap, said the credit also has to go to the support staff that help RCB bowlers draw their plans.

"A lot of credit goes to the men behind the scenes, the kind of plans and the way we executed those plans. The experience of Hoff (Josh Hazlewood) and me is useful, but the support staff has been outstanding," he said.

"They set up the plans and we're executing. I can say we're data informed."

Rajat Patidar's form this season has added extra edge to Royal Challengers Bengaluru's batting. PTI

Clockwise from top left: Sakib Hussain, Brijesh Sharma, Praful Hinge and Saurabh Dubey.

Tough gig, tougher new blokes: Debutant pacers who shone the brightest

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

There is no doubt that the last two months in the IPL have belonged to the batters, with the ever-escalating scoring rates forcing bowling attacks to constantly reinvent themselves and evolve.

With the task of delivering under the pressure -- a new normal, where totals beyond 230 are scored at ease, few of the unheralded quicks have hit the right notes.

They have not only managed to produce moments of magic but have also delivered match-winning performances across the season.

Sakib Hussian -- M: 11, W: 15, BBM: 4/24, Eco: 9.48

Back in Bihar, he goes by the name 'Gopalganj's Rabada'. In a Sunrisers side that has Pat Cummins and Eshan Malinga, Sakib Hussian has stood out like a beacon.

Much before he was testing batters with his sheer pace, accuracy and variations, he was being tested to make ends meet. And then the IPL came calling, and Sakib, grabbed it with both hands.

While he failed to get a game for Kolkata Knight Riders, Sunrisers showed faith. Sakib enjoyed a dream debut, picking up 4/24. The Bihar man has not looked back since, collectively taking 15 wickets, and at least one in 10 of the 11 games.

Brijesh Sharma -- M: 12, W: 13, BBM: 2/18, Eco: 9.70

Having played age group cricket in Jammu & Kashmir, Brijesh Sharma made a move to Bengal in search of better opportunities.

The 27-year-old drew some eyeballs in the 2025 Bengal Pro T20 League where he picked 11 wickets, which, in turn, interested Rajasthan Royals to sign him for Rs 30 lakh.

In 12 games, Brijesh has picked up 13 wickets, using the change of pace and yorker as effective weapons. With a lot of tennis ball cricket under his belt, Brijesh's arm-speed also makes it difficult for the batters to pick his back-of-the-hand delivery.

Praful Hinge -- M: 7, W: 14, BBM: 4/34, Eco: 11.73

Manifesting your dreams is what people suggest, and that's exactly what Praful Hinge has done so far. The 24-year-old, known for his ability to generate bounce off a good length with his higher arm release, etched his name into the history books by picking up three wickets in his first over on debut, which was never done.

The Vidarbha-born Hinge, who prefers to hit-the-deck, ran through Rajasthan Royals' top-order with a brilliant first spell of 4/6. In the tournament, Hinge has 14 wickets in the seven games.

Hinge has also been a part of Vidarbha's 2024-25 Ranji Trophy and 2025-26 Vijay Hazare winning campaigns.

Saurabh Dubey -- M: 4, W: 5, BBM: 2/28, Eco: 8.26

Saurabh Dubey came into the season as a KKR net bowler, got promoted into the main squad as an injury replacement to Akash Deep and now has walked away as a promising talent, whose domestic career could be rekindled.

Having not featured in a high-profile game since October 2023, the Vidarbha man made his debut against the Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Raipur. While he remained wicketless, he showed glimpses of promise for KKR to persist.

The persistence paid off as Saurabh picked up five wickets in the next three games, including the likes of Jos Buttler, Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav and David Miller.

Vishal, Sebastian star for United Aces

BENGALURU, DHNS: A brace each by Vishal Kumar and Sebastian Jude powered United Aces FC to a commanding 6-0 win over Vanquishers Sports in the KSFA C Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Wednesday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

While Vishal scored his goals in the sixth and eighth minutes, Sebastian found the back of the net in the 32nd and 51st minutes. Kanish NS (10th) and Sachin Raj R (31st) added one goal apiece to register their names on the scoresheet.

Results: United Aces FC: 6 (Vishal Kumar 6th, 8th, Kanish NS 10th, Sachin Raj R 31st, Sebastian Jude 32nd, 51st) bt Vanquishers Sports: 0; BM FC: 2 (Anto Xavier 28th, Ajith 50th) bt TFF: 0; FX FC Bangalore: 2 (G Sri Kishore 36th, Vismay 48th) bt Play Smart FC: 0; NEYFC: 1 (S Saathvik Raju 18th) drew with Noel Wilson FC: 1 (Hashir 27th); Real Bengaluru: 1 (Vishal Saikia 30+2nd) drew with Bangalore Champs Academy: 1 (Mathu Suthanan 5th).

Prannoy, Lakshya make progress

SINGAPORE, PTI

Star Indian shuttlers HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen advanced to the men's singles second round with stunning wins at the USD 1,000,000 Singapore Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

Prannoy, a 2023 World Championships and Asian Games bronze medallist, produced a composed performance to prevail 10-21, 21-12, 21-18 over the world No. 5 Jonatan Christie of Indonesia in just over an hour.

It was the 33-year-old's first win over Christie in five years, having last defeated him at the 2021 Indonesia Open.

Prannoy will face Singapore's former world champion Loh Kean Yew next.

Lakshya saw off world No. 24 Lu Guang Zu 21-17, 21-15 in 42 minutes to set up a second-round clash with second seeded Thai Kunlavut Vitidsarn.

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto also advanced to the second round after beating Malaysia's Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien 21-14, 20-22, 21-13 in their opening match.

HS Prannoy defeated world No. 5 Jonatan Christie of Indonesia in the opening round of the Singapore Open. PTI FILE PHOTO

However, Kidambi Srikanth and Malvika Bansod couldn't cross the opening hurdle.

Srikanth fought his heart out before succumbing 20-22, 21-19, 17-21 to local hero Loh Kean Yew, who avenged last week's loss to the Indian.

Malvika, who is on a comeback trail after recovering from an ACL injury, also couldn't go the distance despite putting up a brave effort, losing 21-11, 19-21, 12-21 to Chinese Taipei's Lin Hsiang Ti.

In women's doubles, Panda sisters -- Rutaparna and Swetaparna -- lost 9-21, 17-21 to Thailand's P Aiamvareesirsakul and S Janpeng in another match.

Boys stun TN, girls beat MP as K'taka teams enter semis

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka boys' basketball team defeated defending champions Tamil Nadu 84-72 to reach the semifinals of the Junior National Championships in Puducherry on Wednesday.

Vjayeendra Vedhanthi starred in the win, shredding the Tamil Nadu defense to score 22 points.

Vaibhav Gowda (12 points) and Adithya Vittal Shenoi (11 points) executed perfectly down the stretch to pull off the biggest upset of the tournament.

The state team will face either Kerala or Chandigarh in the semis.

Later in the day, the state's women's team defeated Madhya Pradesh 76-58 in the quarterfinals to set-up a semifinal clash against Chhattisgarh.

Result: Men: Karnataka 84 (Vjayeendra Vedhanthi 22, Vibhav Gowda 12, Adithya Vittal Shenoi 11) beat Tamil Nadu 72 (Yadesh Kumar 20, Sumanesh V 17, U S Sujeeth 12, Shakeel Niyasdeen 11).
Women: Karnataka: 76 (Nidhi Umesh 22, Sravani Shivanna 19, Nilaaya Reddy 15) bt Madhya Pradesh: 58 (Laxita Choudhari 19, Swetha Singh 13).

Willis' tale of 'stringing' success stories

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

For three days across three Indian cities, Tim Willis interacted with over 400 enthusiasts eager to learn about his craft. The masterclass was from an expert who, for more than three decades, has dealt with racquets waiting for him to find their perfect match in a string.

"It's not the racquet you hit the shuttlecock with, it's the string," reminded the 59-year-old Englishman, a renowned stringer, supervisor and a founding member of the Yonex stringing team who made his final stop in Bengaluru after conducting one-day workshops in Delhi and Mumbai this month.

A badminton player himself during his childhood, Willis grew up repairing and re-stringing his own racquets before doing it full time for friends at tournaments. The Hampshire-born man was then invited to the 1998 All England Championships to be the official stringer and ever since has gone on to work at all the major badminton events across the world including the Olympics, World Championships, top-tier Badminton World Federation (BWF) tournaments.

England's Tim Willis, renowned racquet stringer, was on a three-city workshop tour in India this month.

Willis' gamut of knowledge about guts – the different filaments used, their varied thickness, the adequate tension required and how all such factors affect the quality of shot-making – has earned him the respect of top players.

"Viktor (Axelson) and Carolina (Marin) are good friends. In fact, I was the one who got Carolina to change from Nano G95 to Aerobite (hybrid string to maximise spin and control) in 2016-17. There are no good stringers in Spain so Carolina did her own stringing and used Nano G95 because they are durable.

"But the tension was not as high, because they weren't getting strung often. Being a left-hander, with hit and slice, we changed her to Aerobite with the proper tension that naturally suited her game," Willis told *DH*.

Tension is the amount of pulling force applied to the strings which go through and tightened behind grommets (tiny plastic tubes in the holes) placed around the head of a racquet.

High tension aides control, precision and has a smaller sweet spot, whereas lower tension enables power as it is more flexible giving it a trampoline effect. Willis explained that the extent of tension (measured in kgs/lbs) required is a personal preference and not a one-size fits all gamble.

"Akane Yamaguchi (world No. 3 female singles player from Japan), is on the lower end at about 25-26 pounds. But Viktor, Ayush (Shetty) and some of the Japanese have 33, 34, 35 pounds. For an average player, around 26lbs is good enough. Some would say doubles tend to have higher tension.

"Ayush and Lakshya (Sen) are fussy. They need a new re-string before every match while Chou Chin-chen (men's World No. 6 from Taiwan) is rarely seen at our service centres because he gets 20 racquets strung before he gets on tour for 3-4 months. French players are the most prepared and Malaysians are the least. And about our (stringers) interactions with the players, Chirag (Shetty) and Satwik (Rankireddy) are the funniest guys and (PV) Sindhu is great to have a conversation with. Some of the younger ones (from different nationalities) need to be taught how to be polite. So we've discovered that we've to educate them all."

According to Willis, on an average, it takes a stringer 20-30 minutes to get one badminton racquet ready which includes checking/replacing grommets and stenciling. What is the veteran's record then?

"At home, before I went to an event I strung 55 racquets in 24 hours. Another time, 9 minutes 30 seconds is my fastest time to string one racquet. But I've never done it again because it compromises on the quality," stressed Willis.

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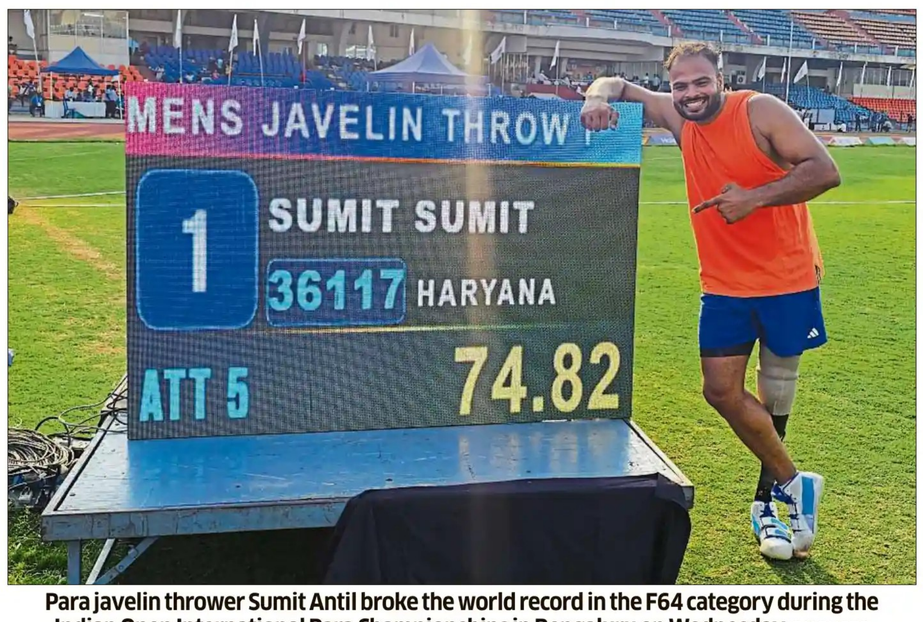
PARA ATHLETICS INDIAN OPEN

Sumit shines brightest

Para javelin thrower breaks own World Record with 74.82 metres effort

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS



Para javelin thrower Sumit Antil broke the world record in the F64 category during the Indian Open International Para Championships in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Two-time Paralympics Champion Sumit Antil returned to his favourite hunting ground Sree Kanteerava Stadium to reset his F64 javelin throw world record at 74.82 metre on Day 2 of the Indian Open International Para Championships here on Wednesday.

The 27-year-old amputee athlete, who lost his left leg in a bike accident at the age of 17, surpassed his previous best of 73.29 metres (set at the Para Asian Games in 2023) in a field that had no competition on offer. The competition also served as the final trials for the Para Asiad in October.

"Bengaluru has always been lucky for me as I have always done well here. That's why I came here thinking of improving my world record," Sumit told *DH*. "Going 74.82 means I am not far from the 75-mark, which I have been trying to breach for the last three years. This result gives me immense motivation with the Asian Para Games coming up later in the year, I will aim for the mark there."

Sumit's best attempt of the day came from his penultimate throw in the day while one of his earlier throws also went visibly above 73m but was not counted due to a foul.

His coach Vipin Kasana, who was India's best javelin thrower in the early 2010s, wasn't expecting the record as a recurring neck injury impacted Sumit's training over the last month.

"In training, we kept the throws below 50m to ensure his injury wasn't aggravated and allowed him time to heal," said Vipin. "But once one of his fouled throws went big, I knew a record was possible today."

Meanwhile, Paralympic javelin record holder Navdeep Singh won the men's F41 category comfortably with an attempt of 44.89.

Results: Winners and Karnataka only: Men: 400m: **T11:** Jadunath Majhi (Odi) 58.32, 1; Koratikere Guru Keshava Murthy (Kar) 59.72, 2. **T12:** Chirag Tyagi (UP) 50.12. **T36:** Chirag (Del) 1:03.83. **T37:** Swastik Sahoo (Odi) 56.11. **T38:** Akira Nandan Banothu (Tel) 52.06; Devadiga Sachidananda (Kar) 1:02.25, 3. **T47:** Dilip Gavit (Mah) 47.64; Babu Janu Pandaramise (Kar) 48.81, 2. **T53:** Kamalakanta Nayak (Odi) 1:10.72. **T54:** Ramesh Shanmugam (TN) 53.63. **High jump: T63:** Shailesh Kumar (Bih) 1.84m. **T64:** Praveen Kumar (UP) 2.00m. **Discus throw: F57:** Parveen Kumar (Har) 43.99m. **Javelin throw: F13:** Manjeet (Har) 59.08m. **F37/F38:** Haney (Har) 60.70m. **F41:** Navdeep (Har) 44.89m. **F46:** Rinku (Har) 61.70m. **F64:** Sumit (Har) 74.82m. **Club throw: F32:** Gowthaman Elangovan (TN) 26.51m. **F51:** Pranav Soorma (Har) 34.04m.

Women: 400m: T11: Ravanni Valasanaini (AP) 1:04.62. **T12:** Tejalben Amraji Damor (Guj) 56.42; Soumya Soumya (Kar) 1:06.51, 2. **T13:** Shanti Bai Jhariya (MP) 1:12.28. **T20:** Deepthi Jeevanji (Tel) 57.84. **T37/T38:** Bina Sambhubhai Moradiya (Guj) 1:12.42. **T47:** Anjanaben Rohit Bumbadiya (Guj) 58.13.
Shot Put: F11/F12: Rajashri Kasdekar (Mah) 7.96m; Manjula Hunase Katte Kumarap (Kar) 7.42m, 2; Gangavva Neelap Harijan (Kar) 7.19m, 3. **F20:** Khushboo Gill (Raj) 11.10m. **F35/F36/F37:** Lakshmi (Har) 7.98m. **F40/F41:** Enbatamizhi Sivakumar (TN) 6.20m. **F46:** Amisha Rawat (Utk) 11.55m. **F64:** Dayawanti Dayawanti (Har) 9.09m.

Discus throw: F54: Suvarna Raj (UP) 16.57m. **F55:** Karamjyoti (Har) 21.36m. **F56/F57:** Fatima Khatoon (UP) 18.57m. **Javelin throw: F12/F13:** Gangavva Neelap Harijan (Kar) 22.85m. **F34:** Bhagyashri Jadhav (Mah) 14.07m. **F46:** Bhavanaben Ajab Chaudhary (Guj) 37.01m.

India to host Asian Relays and Indoor Championships

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Asian Athletics Association (AAA) handed the hosting rights for the 2027 Asian Relay and 2028 Asian Indoor Championships following the continental body's executive council meeting in Hong Kong on Thursday.

The Asian Relays will be hosted in Chandigarh while Bhubaneswar will host the Asian Indoors, confirmed Athletics Federation of India spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla, who attended the AAA meeting in the capacity of World Athletics vice president, to *DH*.

The Sector 7 Sports Complex in the Union Territory will host the Asian Relays. The third edition of the two-day tournament will host men's, women's and mixed relay events in 4x100m and 4x400m.

Meanwhile, the Kalinga Indoor Stadium in Odisha's capital will host both Asian and World Indoors, in February and March respectively, in the Los Angeles Olympic year.

The 2028 season may see India hosting further track and field events as the AFI is also bidding for the World U-20 Championships, likely in a major North Indian city.

India is bidding for the event, along with bids for senior World Championships for the 2029 or 2031 edition.

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ
ರಾಜ್ಯದ ವಿವಿಧ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ
02 ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ
32 ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ
8ನೇ ತರಗತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಥಮ
ಪಿ.ಯು.ಸಿ. ಹಂತಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶಕ್ಕೆ
'ವಿಶೇಷ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ'

ನೀವು ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ
ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ತಾರೆ
ಆಗಲು ಬಯಸುವಿರಾ?
ಈಗಲೇ ಮೊದಲ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ ಇರಿಸಿ!

ಹೆಚ್.ಎಂ. ಜ್ಯೋತಿ, ಕಾಮನ್‌ವೆಲ್ತ್ ಗೇಮ್ಸ್ ಪದಕ ವಿಜೇತರು, ಡಿ.ವೈ.ಇ.ಎಸ್. ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟು

ನಿಯಮಗಳು:

(1) ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಭಾಗದ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಗಳ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಮುಕ್ತ ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ.

(2) 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪ್ರವೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಆಯೋಜಿಸಲಾದ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಶಿಬಿರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಈ ವಿಶೇಷ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

(3) ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಶಿಬಿರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಆದರೆ, ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯ ಪ್ರವೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾಗದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿ, ವಿಶೇಷ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

(4) 8ನೇ ತರಗತಿಗೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಬಯಸುವ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳುಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ 7ನೇ ತರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, 8ನೇತರಗತಿ ಪ್ರವೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಜೂನ್-2026ಕ್ಕೆ ಅನ್ವಯವಾಗುವಂತೆ 14 ವರ್ಷ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನ ಒಳಗೆ ಇರಬೇಕು. ಪ್ರಥಮ ಪಿ.ಯು.ಸಿ. ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಬಯಸುವ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳ ವಯಸ್ಸು ಜೂನ್-2026ಕ್ಕೆ ಅನ್ವಯವಾಗುವಂತೆ 18 ವರ್ಷ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನ ಒಳಗೆ ಇರಬೇಕು.

(5) ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವವರು ಆಯಾ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ **ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 8:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ವರದಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳತಕ್ಕದ್ದು**

(6) ವಾಲಿಬಾಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಬಾಸ್ಕೆಟ್‌ಬಾಲ್ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ, ಇತರೆ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಸಾಧಾರಣ ಸಾಧನೆ ತೋರುವ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ಎತ್ತರ (Height) ಮತ್ತು ತೂಕದ (Weight) ಅರ್ಹತಾ ಮಾನದಂಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಡಿಲಿಕೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು.

(7) ಈ ವಿಶೇಷ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳು ಅರ್ಹರಾದಲ್ಲಿ, ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ/ನಿಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ನೀಡಲು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಉಪ/ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಆಯುಕ್ತರು
ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು
ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಯುವ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 155265

ಹಂತ: 1

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳು	ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಡೆಯುವ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಗಳು
1	ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ	01-06-2026	ವಾಲಿಬಾಲ್, ಸೈಕ್ಲಿಂಗ್, ಕುಸ್ತಿ, ಜೂಡೋ
2	ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ, ತುಮಕೂರು	01-06-2026	ಅಥ್ಲೆಟಿಕ್ಸ್, ಕಬಡ್ಡಿ, ಜಿಮ್ನಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ಸ್, ಫುಟ್ಬಾಲ್
3	ಶ್ರೀ ಕಂಠೀರವ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು	01-06-2026	ಬಾಸ್ಕೆಟ್‌ಬಾಲ್, ಬಾಕ್ಸಿಂಗ್, ಆರ್ಚರಿ, ಫೆನ್ಸಿಂಗ್
4	ಅಕ್ಕಿತಿಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹಾಕಿ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು	01-06-2026	ಹಾಕಿ

ಹಂತ: 2

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳು	ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಡೆಯುವ ಕ್ರೀಡೆಗಳು
1	ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಫಾರ್ ಸ್ಪೋರ್ಟ್ಸ್ ಸೈನ್ಸ್, ಗೇಟ್ ನಂ. 7 & 8 ಶ್ರೀ ಕಂಠೀರವ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 027, ಮೊ: 9113535733, 9606670580	04-06-2026	ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಮತ್ತು ತುಮಕೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ:01-06-2026 ರಂದು ಆಯ್ಕೆಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳು ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳು
2	ಸೆಂಟರ್ ಫಾರ್ ಸ್ಪೋರ್ಟ್ಸ್ ಸೈನ್ಸ್, ಗೇಟ್ ನಂ. 7 & 8 ಶ್ರೀ ಕಂಠೀರವ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 027, ಮೊ: 9113535733, 9606670580	05-06-2026	ಶ್ರೀ ಕಂಠೀರವ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ ಮತ್ತು ಅಕ್ಕಿತಿಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ:01-06-2026 ರಂದು ಆಯ್ಕೆಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳು ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳು

Karnataka's Model of Women Empowerment

'Gruha Lakshmi': A Beacon of Dignity in Women's Lives

Guarantee Varthe

Bengaluru: "Because I am a transgender, society always looked at me differently. After enduring years of hardship and pain, it was the Karnataka Government's 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme that became my support. With the money I receive every month, I now run a fruit shop and live with dignity. Those who once mocked us now lovingly call me 'Akka'…" These are the heartfelt words of Sapna from Kalaburagi.

Gruha Lakshmi

For lakhs of oppressed women like Sapna and crores of homemakers, the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme of the government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has brought a light of self-respect into their lives. Launched with the noble vision that when a woman becomes financially empowered, the entire family progresses, this ambitious scheme was inaugurated on August 30, 2023, in the cultural city of Mysuru. Today, the scheme has successfully completed three years and emerged as an economic strength for households across the state.

GUARANTEE HABBA
Stepping into the 4th year

Monthly Honorarium, A New Dimension of Women's Empowerment

The scheme was launched with the firm resolve that the lady of the house should not have to depend on others even for her small personal needs. Eligible women are receiving ₹2,000 every month directly into their bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). This is not merely free money, but the highest form of honorarium being given by the State Government in recognition of the sacrifices made by homemakers who work tirelessly for their families. As a result, lower and middle-class women in both rural and urban areas have gained a small but meaningful degree of financial independence.

The Economic Revolution of Three Years

Women receiving ₹24,000 annually have gained a total financial support over ₹70,000 the last three years. This financial assistance has transformed the economic condition of poor families. Mothers across the state are using this money with greater responsibility. Thousands of women have used this support for sheep and poultry farming, children's education, purchasing household electronic appliances, and starting home-based businesses, thereby moving towards both empowerment and self-reliance. Many women in rural areas are also pooling this money into small savings groups and self-help collectives.

A Global Record in Numbers

There is no other scheme in the country that has such a large number of women beneficiaries and provides direct cash transfers on this scale. More than 1.24 crore homemakers receive ₹2,000 every month through Direct Benefit Transfer, and so far, the government has allocated ₹69,783 crore for this scheme.

Women's Economic Freedom is the Foundation of a Prosperous Society

The 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme is not merely a political promise; it is a symbol of dignity and respect for our mothers. When money circulates in the hands of women, the entire family prospers. The fact that funds have reached the accounts of more than 1.24 crore mothers over the last three years is proof of our government's sincerity.

- Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

The Biggest Revolution in the Country's History

The Gruha Lakshmi scheme is not only Karnataka's pride but also the largest direct cash transfer scheme implemented for women in the history of the country. Through technology, our government has successfully reached crores of mothers in a highly transparent manner and provided them with financial security in their lives.

- D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

Supporting Women, Securing Families

A nation can achieve true progress only when it's women are economically empowered. The Gruha Lakshmi Scheme has provided much-needed relief to crores of families across the State amid the burden of price hikes. Women possess the strength to lead and sustain their families. The Government introduced this scheme with the belief that when a woman is empowered, the entire family becomes stronger.

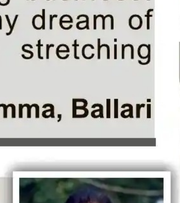
- Lakshmi Hebbalkar,
Minister for Women and Child Development

"I have neither a father nor a mother. We are three sisters struggling even for a meal, and I am also physically disabled. When I felt life had ended, it was the Gruha Lakshmi money that held my hand. With that support, I started a clothing business. Siddaramaiah Sir gave life to my dream of earning independently without stretching my hand before anyone.

Jayamma, Ballari

"I run a pickle business. But I had to walk kilometres every day for sales, and my legs would get exhausted. At such a time, the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme supported me. By saving the ₹2,000 I receive every month, I purchased my own scooter. It has helped me greatly in going door-to-door to sell pickles.

Zeenath, Mangaluru


"I started a country chicken farm by saving the money from the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme. Starting such a farm had been my dream for many years, but I lacked the capital then. Today, because of the guarantees, I am living independently without depending on anyone

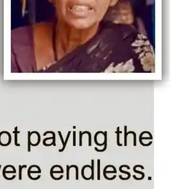
Leelavathi, Shivamogga

"We were living in extreme poverty, and managing the household was very difficult. The Government's 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme brought financial strength into my life. By saving the money that came every month without fail, I bought two goats and started rearing them. Their numbers have now increased and become a source of income for our family.

Devamma, Yadgir

"It has been eight years since my husband passed away. Raising three daughters and managing a home without a man's support was like living through hell. Money would come only if I got labour work during the coffee season; otherwise, we had nothing for the rest of the year. Today, the Gruha Lakshmi money is our lifeline. Even imagining what would happen if this scheme stopped brings tears to my eyes.

Lakshmi, Chamarajanagar


"When my son was just five months old, my husband left me and married someone else. Debt frightened me, and I often felt like ending my life. There was no food to eat, and our electricity connection was cut for not paying the bill. The days I cried in darkness were endless. Today, the Gruha Lakshmi money has removed the darkness from my life. With the help of a small petty shop gifted by an elderly woman, I use this money to buy supplies for the shop. Siddaramaiah has done a noble deed.

Renuka, Koppal

karnataka information